

JAMES MOLESWORTH HOBART.



The Newmarket Duke of Ormond

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b. b. d.

THE LIFE,

AND

EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES,

OF

JAMES MOLESWORTH HOBART,

ALIAS HENRY GRIFFIN,

ALIAS LORD MASSEY, THE NEWMARKET
DUKE OF ORMOND, &c.

Involving a Number of well-known Characters:

TOGETHER WITH

A SHORT SKETCH OF THE EARLY PART

OF

The Life of Doctor Torquid.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

BY N. DRALLOK.

Utinque defecere Mores,

Dedecorant bene nata Culpe.

HOR. OD.

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MUSEUM
BRITAN
NICUM

PREFACE.

THREE grand objections have been made to the propriety of publishing this work— First, it has been observed, that the memoirs of a malefactor cannot be sufficiently interesting to attract public attention. To this I beg leave to reply, that even the adventures of a simple malefactor will excite curiosity, at least in some degree; but when a few other ideas are added to that of malefactor, the association may become extremely interesting— When it is known that this adventurer was the son of a judge, allied by

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consanguinity to some noble families, well educated, able so to conduct himself as to command respect, to affect nobility for a considerable time without exciting the least suspicion, and with equal ease capable of adopting the manners of the unlettered vulgar, and of descending to the lowest species of thievery—When, I say, all this is known, if any still persist in the first objection, I shall take refuge in the adage *Ne conare quod fieri non potest*, and here most respectfully bid them adieu.

The second (a much more important objection, with respect to the public) is, that a relation of the intrigues and extravagancies of a licentious young man, restrained by no one moral principle, might have an improper influence on the juvenile mind — This objection may, with propriety, suggest itself on reading the title page; but, on perusing the work, it will be found, that the inevitable

inevitable evils which follow the gratification of illicit pleasures, are particularly noticed ; great care taken to point out the dangerous tendency of the smallest relaxation in moral discipline ; and, above all, in those passages where vice seems to have crept forward imperceptibly, an occasional hint is given to those who superintend youth, by which it's dreadful consequences may be frequently averted.

Lastly, it has been said, that no real benefit can at any rate arise from the perusal of such a work. What ! is there no instruction to be obtained from a lively picture of the gradations by which a youth, of genteel rank and liberal education, fell from virtue and innocence, down to the lowest ebb of human degradation ? Is there no advantage to be derived from observations made on those little circumstances which gradually debase
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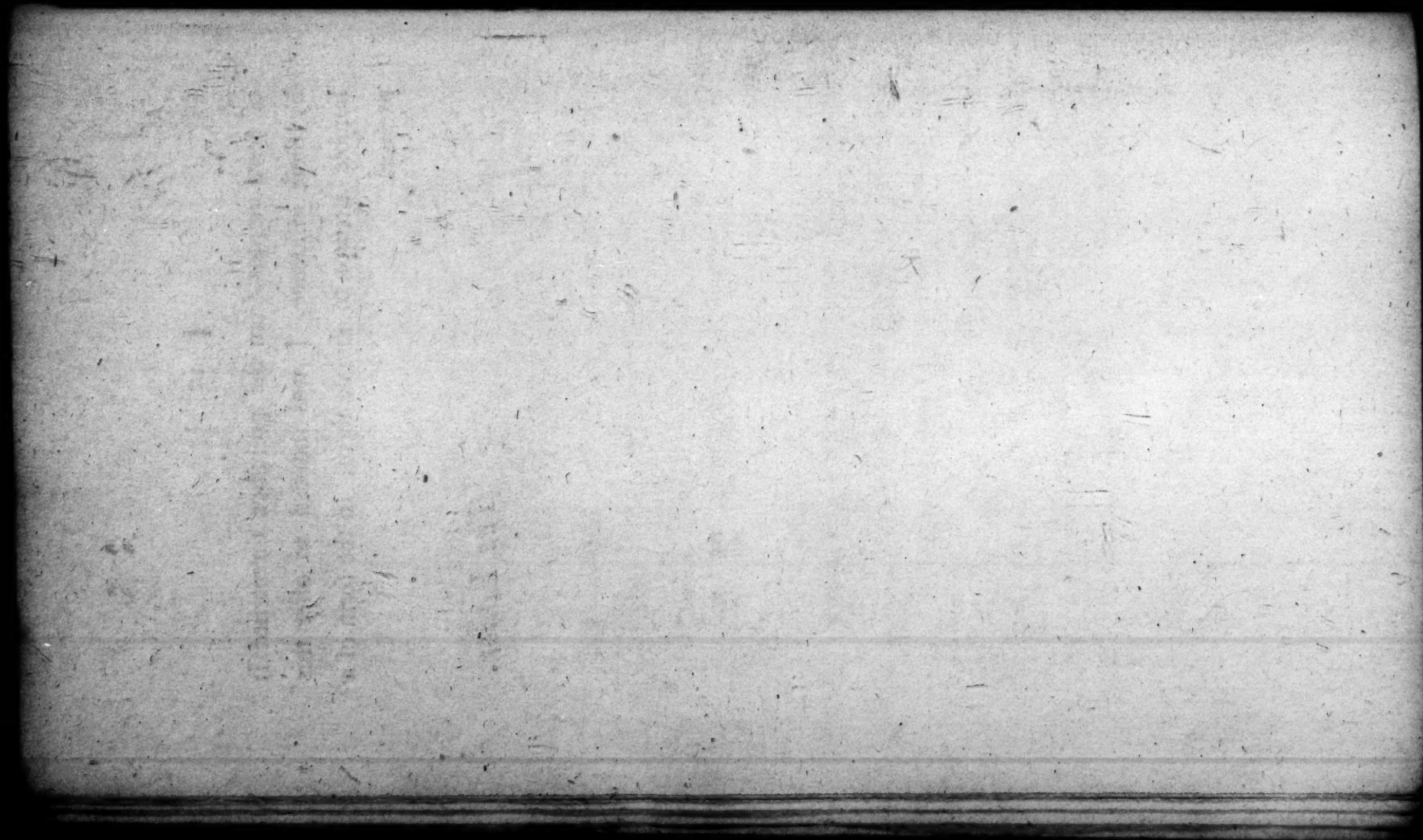
the mind, and reconcile it to that guilt, at which, but a short time before, it would have revolted ?

This work, though it possesses many similar advantages, is not a novel, where the hero, after scenes of intrigues and debauchery, as though to reward him for his crimes, receives the fair hand of his mistress, but a detail of extraordinary facts, communicated by Hobart himself, frequently interrupted by short observations, which, though unusual in similar productions, may not prove displeasing to the reader.

These occasional remarks would have rendered a preface unnecessary : but whilst this work was under arrangement, some gentlemen, who possess that which, with the multitude, adds greater weight to an opinion than the most brilliant mental talents, thought proper to start the above objections ; in order therefore, if possible, to rescue the labour
of

of some months from the prejudice threatened it by their influence, I was induced to offer this humble attempt to obviate them, in the form of a preface.

The Editor.



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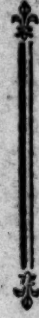
IN March 1793, the Editor of this work published, in a provincial paper, a few prominent features of the life of Hobart. This short Sketch excited public curiosity to such a degree, that being in possession of the necessary materials, he was induced to arrange them for the gratification of the curious.

Some needy printer, however, literally copied from the news-paper the few incidents which appeared, and published them in a sixpenny pamphlet, under the title of "Authentic Memoirs, &c. of James Molesworth Hobart." The editor has, nevertheless, thought proper to make use of his own materials in this general work, without the least alteration, and trusts the reader, on seeing them

com-

combined with other circumstances on which they naturally depend, will find them much more interesting than in the solitude of abstraction.

It will be necessary also to inform the reader, that great care is taken not to wound the feelings of the parties implicated in these adventures; many of the principal characters are therefore introduced under fictitious names, and when, towards the conclusion, this maxim has been departed from in consequence of the notoriety of the circumstances, initials only are used.



THE LIFE,
AND
EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES,
OF

James Molesworth Hobart.

CHAP. I.

*Introduces Hobart, some of his relatives, and two
violent disputants.*

JAMES MOLESWORTH HOBART,
eldest Son of James Hobart, Esq.
was born at Williamsburgh, the capital
of the province of Virginia, in North
America, about the latter end of the
year 1765; his father was Judge Advocate of the province, and his mother,
whose maiden name was Morton, was
the eldest daughter of a gentleman of
great respectability in that vicinity.

B.

James,

James, being the first-born, engrossed not only the whole tenderness of his parents, but that of several relatives on his mother's side. Miss Morton, his mother's sister, a young lady about eighteen years of age, was so fond of the lad, that she principally took upon herself the superintendency of his infancy; and when, about five years after, she was married to Mr. Harris, an eminent merchant about twenty miles from Philadelphia, she expressed the most bitter anguish on quitting the little object of her tenderness.

After the departure of Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Thormax, his mother's aunt, took young James under her immediate protection. This lady, in her youth, had manifested a particular aversion to the marriage state, which, she said, originated in an attachment to study; but her censorious neighbours declared that she

she affected this through disappointment; for she had used every little art in her power to attract the other sex, but the ungrateful monsters had treated her with a total indifference. Be that as it may, she had, however, in her forty-eighth year, been induced to alter her opinion in favour of Mr. Abram Thormax, a man about thirty years of age.

Mr. Thormax was born in Dorsetshire, and when a lad, was placed an apprentice, by the parish-officers, to a travelling tinker. Abram soon became useful to his master, and discovered great marks of original genius; but not having strictly regarded the distinction of property, in the twentieth year of his age he paid an involuntary visit to the province of Maryland, from whence, after a certain period, he went to Williamsburch, and had the good fortune to conquer the obdurate obstinacy of Miss

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Monsond's

Mönsond's celibacy. But it was said by those who delighted in scandal, that Mr. Thormax had married this lady for the sake of her property only; and they prophesied that he would some time or other convert it into cash, and return to his native country. In this, however, they were mistaken; for, soon after his marriage, he was obliged to submit to the amputation of a leg; and whatever notions he might have entertained prior to this misfortune, on his recovery, he resolved to make himself as comfortable with his help-mate as possible.

This loving couple resided some small distance from Williamsburgh, in the same neighbourhood with a Scotch pedagogue, celebrated for his wisdom, literary talents, and piety. Young Hobart, when about eight years of age, was sent to reside with his relations, and became a pupil of this famous Caledonian erudite.

Mrs.

Mrs. Thormax doated on her nephew, as she called him; and often declared that he had engrossed the genius of the whole family; for by this time, Mr. Hobart had been blessed with another son, and two daughters. Here, in about three or four years, he learnt his *hic hæc hoc, propria quæ maribus, &c.* and was considered, by his aunt, as a prodigy of learning. It is certain, indeed, he had made as great a progress as lads generally do, who are employed so long in learning to repeat whole pages of unintelligible jargon, without calling one rule into exercise, or understanding any thing of their application. If, however, he shewed no extraordinary aptness in imbibing the rudiments of the Latin tongue, he displayed a wonderful degree of courage, and was considered, amongst his companions of the school, as *dux ludorum*.

It is not, perhaps, in every instance, easy to account for the motives which induce two men, to be attached to the company and conversation of each other: It is evident, indeed, that it frequently originates in a similar mode of thinking; but it often happens, that two men cannot be happy but in each other's company, and yet they can scarcely agree in any one proposition; nay, sometimes, the one shall seem to take no pleasure but in teasing and perplexing the other; and yet, the object so treated cannot be comfortable but in the company of his tormentor.

Leaving the learned to account for this *miranda amicitia*, we shall only observe, that such an intimacy subsisted between Thormax and the literary Caledonian.

Macall was a rigid Presbyterian, and esteemed every man unacquainted with Latin

Latin and Greek, as little better than a brute; on the contrary, Thormax conceived no particular religious persuasion necessary to salvation; and affirmed that, in general, a smattering of the dead languages only served to make men ridiculous.

These opponents spent six evenings in the week together, and violently combated each other's opinions, in the presence of a few passive neighbours; but the Scotchman devoted the Sabbath to pious purposes only.

About this time, a subject presented itself, which afforded ample scope for the animadversions of these two great Philosophers: Young Hobart had seen a beautiful Squirrel, the property of a negro, belonging to a neighbouring store; this little animal so took his fancy, that he was resolved to possess it,

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at any rate. The cunning negro finding him so captivated, was determined to make an advantageous bargain, and after consulting Hobart's ways and means, an agreement was made for the immoderate sum of half a Joe. The young gentleman, though he had boasted the money was ready, was, at first, at a loss how to procure so great a sum; but having observed his aunt count some pieces of gold, which she kept in a trunk, in her own closet, he very artfully took the key out of her pocket, one morning, whilst she was in bed, and helped himself not only to one, for his present purpose, but to two or three more, for future emergencies.

A want of due precaution, in the management of this property, soon created suspicion, and, at last, the charge was fairly brought home to the young offender. The negro was obliged to refund,

refund, and was punished with a severe flogging. Macall was also acquainted with this transaction, but the indulgent aunt insisted that her nephew could never have thought of such a thing, but for the evil counsel of the negro; and positively prohibited the infliction of punishment.

The tutor, on the following evening, expatiated largely on the subject, and lamented the depravity of human nature, unrestrained by religious and moral principles. Thormax gravely observed, he did not pretend to justify the lad; but the crime did not appear to him by any means so glaring as it had been represented; "for (said he) upon examination, we shall find the greatest part of the human race actuated by similar motives. Indeed (continued "Thormax) there is not one in a hundred "who respects the property of his neigh-

"bour, but from fear of punishment.
 "Every wise man will therefore consider
 "his fellow creatures as his greatest
 "enemies; and guard himself with the
 "strictest distrust."

"Why, Mr. Thormax (replied the
 "Scotchman) would you wish to
 "obtrude on every one your unchari-
 "table doctrine? Is it not better to
 "entertain a more favourable opinion of
 "mankind? Indeed, it is evident to
 "me, that such notions tend to create
 "those evils of which you complain.
 "For instance, if a man shews a cautious
 "distrust, as if he feared an advantage
 "would be taken, there is a principle in
 "human nature which would stimulate
 "one who had no design to be dishonest,
 "to use finesse to deceive and over-
 "reach so suspicious a mortal; on the
 "other hand, tell a villain that you rely
 "on his integrity, that you will trust to
 his

" his honour, and you frequently disarm
 " him; confidence in one another, is
 " therefore essentially necessary to the
 " unity and good being of society, and
 " strictly conformable to the Christian
 " Dispensation."

" Was there ever a man's under-
 " standing (exclaimed Thormax) so
 " obscured by the clouds of his own,
 " prejudices? What! entertain a more
 " charitable opinion of mankind than
 " they really deserve? Yes, indeed, if by
 " the adoption of Charity and Christi-
 " anity we are to deny the evidence of
 " our own senses, and to give men credit
 " for what is not to be found in their
 " practice. All thou hast attempted to
 " prove is the necessity of hypocrisy.
 " For if a man tell a villain he will rely
 " on his integrity, and trust to his
 " honour, is not this, according to thy
 " own idea, a subtle piece of craft prac-

"tised at the expence of truth, as the
 "most sure means of obtaining the
 "object in pursuit? When two strings
 "of a musical instrument are in unison,
 "let one be touched, the other will
 "vibrate. There is a similar principle
 "to be observed amongst mankind; if
 "one man compliment another, he
 "generally receives civility in re-
 "turn; if abuse be bestowed, or the
 "lye given, it is usually repaid in the
 "same coin; so with this principle of
 "human nature, which thou hast dis-
 "covered, when A. conceives that B.
 "supposes he shall be cheated, because
 "A. has the power of serving him so,
 "without the possibility of detection, A.
 "therefore will feel no compunction in
 "so doing; because he believes B. by
 "entertaining such suspicion, would
 "render him the like kindness had he a
 "similar opportunity; yet all thy Latin
 "and Greek will not enable thee to dis-
 "cover which is the most honest man of
 the

"the two. But if B. pay a compliment
 "to A's honesty, contrary to his mental
 "conviction, to secure advantage to
 "himself, the most unlettered being
 "would pronounce it downright hypo-
 "crisy."

At this, the Scotchman, with a smile
 of contempt, said to the company;
 "there is no arguing with a man profes-
 "sing no religious principles, and totally
 "ignorant of ancient literature. Tully
 "justly observes *hoc ipsum utile putare, quod*
 "*turpe sit, calamitosum est.* He who con-
 "sults his own indulgence, without
 "regarding the property of his neighbour,
 "deserves to be extirpated from society.
 "I consider the first impression to be of
 "considerable importance; and if my
 "pupil were solely under my direction, I
 "would endeavour to crush every cri-
 "minal symptom in it's bud, and above
 "all dissimulation and hypocrisy, the
 "grand cloaks of every species of iniquity."

"Poor,

“ Poor, blind, contemptible lump of
“ literary ignorance, (said Thormax)
“ thou art made up of dissimulation;
“ and, if nature, in the dispensation of
“ human intellect, had not forgotten
“ thee, thou mightest have discovered it.
“ Dissimulation is the most desirable of
“ all qualifications; for though, like
“ thee, every one disown it, it is blended
“ with almost every transaction of life;
“ and the tyranny of fashion has rendered it absolutely necessary. The
“ beggar uses it to enforce his supplication; the debtor to keep himself from
“ prison; the bailiff to execute his writ;
“ the creditor to obtain his money; the
“ tradesman to sell his goods; it is the
“ crutches on which the clergy are supported; and it comprises the lawyer’s
“ trade; it is the greatest comfort the
“ doctor can bestow; the common cant
“ of the nobility; the minister’s merchandise; and the monarch’s food.”

CH A P. II.

Contains some mischievous tricks at school; passes rapidly over many years, and leaves Hobart a captive to beauty in Philadelphia.

HOBART was frequently present at these verbal conflicts, and seemed much inclined to favour the doctrine of Thor-max, who, perhaps, from a certain congeniality of sentiment, was warmly attached to the youth, and assisted him in continually tormenting his tutor.

Amongst the many projects for perplexing this son of Socrates, the two following only are preserved.

It must be observed, for the credit of the school, that the pious Preceptor was very moderate in almost every thing, except the pleasures of the table, in which

which he generally indulged to a degree of excess; so much, indeed, was he elated at the prospect of a feast, that in anticipating the pleasure, he would think an hour well spent in animadverting on the various modes of cooking a favourite dish, and would frequently smack his lips, and speak with the utmost rapture of the rich gravy which issues from a roasted surloin.

Having received an invitation to dine at a public meeting of some of the most respectable gentlemen of the neighbourhood, he, for several days prior to the time, expressed the pleasure he expected in tasting a bit of venison cooked to his mind. The conspirators racked their invention to devise some means of disappointing him; when Hobart accidentally observed, that the governor had a new wig, which he kept for the purpose of wearing on that day.

On

On this information, a plan suggested itself to Thormax, from which they promised themselves the highest gratification. They procured a small portion of that irritating substance, called Cowage, which Hobart carefully disposed of about the caul of the new wig.

On the feast day, the Scotchman got his head clean shaved, and Thormax, who was to be of the party, called on him, and amused him till about the time he thought dinner would be on the table, when putting on his new wig the very last thing, they arrived just in the moment the company sat down. They had walked rather fast, which promoted that gentle perspiration peculiarly favourable to the success of the plot.

Scarcely had the pedagogue fixed himself opposite a famous haunch of good old venison, before he began to feel

feel the effects of their mischievous ingenuity. This however he disregarded at first, as a trifling uneasiness occasioned by the new wig, especially as his whole attention was eagerly employed in procuring a particular slice of the haunch, of which he conceived himself in some danger of being deprived.

By the time, however, that he had fairly possessed himself of this favourite cut, and filled his plate with a quantity of rich gravy, and sweet sauce, the irritation became so violent, that a broad crimson margin surrounded the front of his wig down to each ear, and large drops of sweat trickled down his forehead.

Never was a man in a more pitiable condition, his eyes beheld the delicious treat his stomach was so well prepared to receive; and his senses were captivated
by

by the grateful effluvia. He made one desperate effort, and put a morsel into his mouth; but the severity of the pain being no longer supportable, he arose, threw off his wig, and began to dance and caper about the room, like a distracted maniac, to the surprise and entertainment of all present.

Not long after this, a number of very respectable ladies and gentlemen had assembled to hear certain orations delivered by the young gentlemen of the school; at the conclusion of which, the master proposed to read a short lecture on morality, of his own writing.

Hobart, who knew him to be vainly fond of reading his own composition, with great action and emphasis, watching his opportunity, silyly touched those parts of his spectacle frames which rest on the nose, with a few drops of oil of vitriol.

The

The orator having adjusted his spectacles, began to deliver his homily with great force and energy; he soon felt a disagreeable sensation, but, lest by an unseasonable interruption he should destroy the effect of a production from which he promised himself so much credit, he bore the pain with surprising fortitude; but the merciless acid penetrated with such rapidity, that tears were provoked in great abundance, and his sight was obscured. Then dropping the manuscript, he snatched off his spectacles, and applying his hand to his face, groaned most piteously.

The mischievous associates were present, and while they affected the greatest concern, had much difficulty to restrain the muscles of their faces in due obedience.

The

The tears of the unfortunate orator having presently diluted the vitriol on his nose, gave it superior activity. The fluid, thus invigorated, was applied by the incautious fingers of the sufferer to the corners of his eyes; the acute pain excited on parts so exquisitely sensible, was altogether insupportable, so that the poor pedagogue was taken away bellowing most hideously, to the astonishment of all present, but the parties concerned in the plot.

Before Hobart was eighteen, his father took him to Philadelphia, and placed him under proper masters, to finish his education.

Mrs. Harris, his aunt, was delighted with the presence of her nephew, whom she had not seen since her marriage. Her husband also treated the youth with great respect, and procured him accommodations

modations during his stay, at a very respectable house in Chestnut-street.

Mr. Harris had, from a clerk, become a partner in a considerable mercantile trade, with Mr. Thebs, an elderly gentleman, of considerable property, who had now given up the whole of the conduct of the business to Mr. Harris, retaining to himself an annuity.

As Mr. Harris had one daughter only, there was a fair expectation that Hobart might first become an assistant, and afterwards succeed to the business, but for this, however, he was soon found ill calculated. New scenes of pleasure and amusement now presented themselves to his imagination, already too warm to be restrained within the bounds of decorum. Here he first felt the irresistible charms of all-conquering beauty, and made his *coup d'essai* in the province

province of intrigue. His first attachment was attended with circumstances so extremely singular, that it has been thought to merit a particular relation.

Nearly opposite Hobart's lodging, lived a gentleman, who, though on the worst side of sixty, had, a few months before our adventurer's arrival, become enamoured of a beautiful young damsel of twenty years of age.

The lady's father, though a reputable tradesman, possessed but little property, and was incumbered with a very large family; so that an alliance with the old gentleman, however heart-breaking to the young lady, was considered by her friends as a most desirable establishment. Thus, after a short negotiation, at the expence of that which is not to be described, and can only be felt by those in a similar situation, she was constrained to

to barter her dearest expectations for a security against poverty, and resign herself into the arms of amorous age and imbecility.

Hobart was informed of this extraordinary match by an elderly gentleman, who had an apartment in the house where he lodged. The old lady, in relating the circumstance, put him to the blush, by observing that she was very pretty, of the sweetest temper, and appeared more like a sweet-heart for such a young gentleman as him, than the wife of one old enough to be her grandfather.

The smallest inadvertent hint, on subjects of this kind, frequently calls the passions into existence at a very early period of life, and plunges the juvenile mind into a degree of intoxication, tho' the object exist only in imagination.

This

This was exactly the case with Hobart; he had painted in his mind the most lovely figure, and was distracted to see the dear object who had been considered as a proper match for him.

An opportunity soon presented itself, for the very next day, the weather being excessively warm, the lady threw up the sash, and sat in a chair at the window, dressed in one of those easy dishabilles which give additional charms to native beauty.

Hobart stood at the window of his own apartment, directly opposite, and there, unperceived, gazed on the lovely figure, whilst she sat with a book in her hand, which occasionally engaged her attention; but the extreme heat producing a bewitching languor, induced the charming object frequently to lay the book on her lap, to throw aside the
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offending

offending drapery which covered her panting breast, and have recourse to the assistance of her fan. Hobart, whose imagination was before sufficiently inflamed, now felt all that pleasing turbulence which pervades the senses, and is known only to youth when actuated by the first pure symptoms of affection, uncontaminated by grosser ideas.

Whilst the young lover was eagerly catching every gesture, and absorbed in amorous admiration, she suddenly turned her eyes, and caught the criminal committing petty larceny on her beauty: on perceiving himself detected, Hobart retired in the utmost confusion, and the lady instantly pulling down the sash, withdrew to a more remote part of the room.

The agitation in their minds, caused by this glance at each other, having subsided,

sided, each party found this a subject of sufficient importance to engross their whole attention. The young gentleman found himself compleatly captivated by her charms; and the lady, who had seen the youth before not with a perfect indifference, was by no means displeased to find herself the object of his contemplation.

The following day she took her station again at the same window, no small pains having been taken, in the decoration of her person; she frequently took a sly glance towards the place where the youth had posted himself the preceding day; he presently appeared, and on turning her head towards him, ventured to salute her; when she returned the compliment with a countenance expressive of the sweetest complacency.

From this time they entered into an explanation of their respective sentiments, so far as they could be expressed by the language of the eye.

The pure passion, with which Hobart had at first found himself impressed, soon degenerated; for he began to entertain inclinations, which he found could not be satisfied whilst he was on the opposite side of the street.

Whether those sensations originated from any gross principles in his own nature, or that the figure and amorous complexion of the lady excited them, is not absolutely certain; but that she possessed charms, capable of corrupting the purest platonic love, cannot be denied. Be that as it may, Hobart's love was now so contaminated by sensual inclinations, that he wished for nothing more ardently than to press the dear object to his breast.

CHAP. III.

Shews the potent effects of the passion of love.

AFTER many fruitless efforts, the amorous youth could contrive no means by which he might obtain an interview; being present however, one night, at a lecture on heads, he had sat a considerable time, before he discovered he was seated close to the dear lady herself.

On this discovery his whole frame was agitated: this fortunately happened while the orator was exhibiting a most frightful and tremendous countenance, when the lady, graciously turning towards him, said, with a smile expressive of the most exquisite sensibility, "O dear " Sir, how monstrously terrifying." "I " must confess, madam, (replied Hobart) " I am wonderfully affected." The lady then

then turned to her husband, who sat on her other side, and said, "my dear, this young gentleman is almost as much affected as I am." "Affected, (said the husband, laughing heartily) you are enough to affect any one."

Our young hero and his mistress, however, found their proximity to each other a matter of too much importance to attend to any thing else during the remainder of the entertainment. The young lover observing the husband, in the course of the evening, deeply interested in the performance, took advantage of the negligent disposition of one of the lady's hands, and gave it a gentle squeeze, which he had the satisfaction to find returned.

As this sublunary life is ever subject to a continual succession of pleasure and pain, hope and disappointment, so that the possession of the greatest felicity may be

be only the prelude to the bitterest woe, thus it happened to the hero of these memoirs, who, during the greatest part of the night, revolved in his mind the pleasing satisfaction he had enjoyed in the company of his mistress; and exhausted his faculties to interpret her meaning by squeezing his hand: sometimes he flattered himself that it was a generous token of her love; then he conceived it to be a delicate mode of checking his impertinence. Resolving, however, to discover her meaning by some means or other the next day, he resigned himself at last to the arms of Morpheus.

He arose late the following morning, but instantly betook himself to the window, to pay his respects to his mistress; the lady not appearing, he began to be alarmed; yet he attended with impatience for several hours, but all in vain; at last, in a state of frenzy, he ran into

the street, and knocked at the door. A female negro appearing, he eagerly enquired for her master and mistress; the servant answered that they were gone a considerable way up the country, early that morning; but she neither knew where, nor when they would return.

At this information he quitted the door in a state of distraction, and walked several miles into the country, before he recollected himself; at last, pausing a little, he fetched a deep sigh, and returned to his lodgings, absorbed in melancholy.

His vivacity so intirely forsook him, that in a few days all the people in the house remarked it. His principal tutor, a teacher of the French and Mathematics, had long observed that his mind was debated from study; but now there was such a visible alteration, that Mr. Harris himself, himself,

himself, who was principally at Philadelphia, began to be seriously alarmed for the state of his health. Supposing it might be the consequence of too strict an application to study, he requested him to desist, and took him with him continually about his business; hoping that a little relaxation might soon restore him.

This by no means diverted Hobart from his enquiries; but all the intelligence he could obtain was from a male negro servant, who said that his master was gone a considerable way up the country, to visit a plantation he had lately purchased, and had taken his mistress a part of the way, to stay at a friend's house, on a visit, till his return.

Being about to send some goods to Trenton up the Delaware, Mr. Harris, thinking it might be conducive to his

C 5

recovery,

recovery, requested Hobart to attend them, and to settle a little account with Mr. Brabber, the gentleman to whom they were consigned; assuring him that he resided in a delightful plantation, situated on the banks of the river, where he might well amuse himself for a few days. Hobart, who, in the absence of his mistress, saw nothing in Philadelphia which could engage his attention, readily consented; and, in a few days, took his departure, accompanied by a negro servant.

On his arrival, Mr. Brabber and his family received him with great cordiality, and used every means in their power to afford him amusement; but so completely had the loss of his mistress enervated every faculty, that neither the sprightly vivacity of young Brabber, nor the sympathizing sighs of his amiable sisters, could stimulate them into action.

A few

A few days after, Mr. Brabber's eldest daughter, who had been on a visit at Burlington, about twelve miles distant on the banks of the river, returned, and, in the course of some conversation with her brother, he earnestly enquired after a lady he had seen at Burlington, when he accompanied her thither. "Ah, Bill, (said she) your case is hopeless; the bewitching fair, with whose charms you were so captivated, is married. I have not been able to learn her name, but her husband is said to be absent on a journey, during which she came from Philadelphia to Burlington, to visit some friends, where she has not been able to escape the shafts of slander; for the gay Captain Williams has so entirely devoted himself to her, ever since her arrival, that some say, were she not inclined to favour his pretensions, she would not attribute that to the polite attention of civility, which

“ she must know proceeds from a different
 “ motive.” “ Pray Miss, (said Hobart, who
 “ had listened attentively to what she said)
 “ did you hear in what part of Phila-
 “ delphia the lady resided?” “ I think,
 “ Sir, (said she) it is Chestnut-street.”
 This confirmed him in opinion that it
 could be no other than his mistress, and
 it was with much difficulty he concealed
 the emotions with which he was agitated.

The next day he declared his intention of departing as soon as possible, and though he was earnestly intreated to stay a few days longer, he crossed the Ferry in the afternoon, purposing to return by land; instead, however, of going to Philadelphia, he hired a boat, and the following day, attended by his negro servant, went directly to Burlington.

He arrived late in the afternoon, and took up his residence at a tavern : here
 his

his senses were alternately agitated by love and jealousy; and so great was his impatience to behold again his lovely inchantress, that he had almost resolved to go directly to her; but prudence, at last, induced him to lay aside a project which might be productive of some obstacles to his future expectations; he therefore contented himself with dispatching his attendant, whom he enabled to conduct himself with so much liberality to his sable brethren, as could not fail to procure him every information in their power.

Late in the evening his faithful envoy returned, and reported that he had seen Captain Williams's servant, who had informed him that his master had accompanied the lady, early that morning, up the river to Trenton, from whence he believed they were to go to visit some of her friends at Brunswick. Jealousy and disappointment

disappointment now distracted him for some time; at last, recovering himself a little, he resolved to pursue them, and take ample vengeance of his rival; but his patience was again put to the test, for he waited till near twelve o'clock the following day, before the tide served to go up the river.

On his arrival at Trenton, he easily traced them, by description, to their inn, where he learnt they had staid all night, and early that morning had taken the road to New York. Breathing nothing but vengeance, without loss of time, he hired horses for himself and servant, and took the same road with all possible speed.

About twelve at night he reached Princeton, and having alighted at a tavern, upon enquiry he found that a gentleman and his lady, exactly of their description, were in that very house, and had been in bed more than an hour and a half.

Hobart

Hobart now requested that somebody might go to the door, and ask if the gentleman's name were Williams; if so, he said, he must speak with him that night. The chambermaid went to the door, and knocked a considerable time before she heard the captain's voice enquiring what was the matter. On being informed that a young gentleman was just arrived on horseback, and wanted to speak to Captain Williams instantly, he deliberated a few moments, and then desired the gentleman might be informed that his name was Williams, and that he would speak to him in the morning. Hobart, who had accompanied the woman to the door, on hearing these words, said aloud, he was a scoundrel, and if he did not come instantly and give him satisfaction, he would break open the door, and inflict on him the punishment he deserved. Captain Williams's courage wanted not such a stimulus; but the alarm

alarm of his mistress, and the danger to which her reputation was exposed, induced him to suppress his natural impetuosity. Hobart finding these threats unattended to, applied his foot to the chamber door, and burst it open with the utmost facility; the lady gave a shriek, and the captain, who was half dressed, ran to the table for his hanger, on whom, while he was disengaging it from the scabbard, Hobart exercised the big end of his whip with amazing effect, till a cut on the forehead, with the hanger, brought him to the floor.

By this time the whole house was alarmed; the maid having ran for assistance, returned, accompanied by her master and two or three others, with more lights, when they found Hobart lying on the floor, and the captain holding a handkerchief to his wound, which bled abundantly,

abundantly, and, upon examination, exhibited a serious aspect.

A surgeon was instantly sent for, and the captain, who now perceived the youth to be of genteel appearance, and an entire stranger to him, seemed under great concern for the safety of his life. The lady also, being somewhat recovered from her first fright, had adopted a sort of dishabille, and drew near to see if she knew the unfortunate youth, whose life was thought to be in imminent danger; when Hobart, who was still seated on the carpet, supported by the inn-keeper, while the captain held the handkerchief to his forehead, fixed his eyes steadfastly on her for some moments, and then exclaimed, "good God! how have I "injured this lady and gentleman!" Captain Williams, who was by no means deficient in point of generosity, perceiving this unlucky circumstance must have

have originated in some mistake, requested him to make himself perfectly happy in that respect, saying; that he himself was the only sufferer, and he sincerely hoped no bad consequence might attend the wound. The lady herself, who was well pleased to find she was unknown to him, expressed her sorrow at his misfortune, and said she hoped it would not prove dangerous.

The surgeon being arrived, the patient was placed in a chair, and the wound examined, which was found of considerable length, and it appeared also that the integument was completely divided, but that the bone had resisted the further progress of the weapon; the lips of the orifice having been united by a few stitches, the patient was put to bed. The surgeon finding that the perturbation of his spirits had entirely subsided, recommended him to be very still, and, at parting,

parting, declared him in no very great danger, to the entire satisfaction of all parties.

The following morning, the captain went to Hobart's apartment, and was much pleased to see him walking about the room; an explanation now took place, and the captain finding the misunderstanding was owing to a mistake in the person of the lady, and that Hobart was no stranger to the nature of the connexion which subsisted between him and his fair companion, thought proper to court his friendship, declaring that he believed him a man of too much honour to injure the lady's reputation, and destroy her peace of mind, by revealing the circumstances which had accidentally come to his knowledge. On being fully satisfied on that head, the captain retired, and soon after returned with the lady; when, after taking some breakfast together

ther in Hobart's room, and finding, by the surgeon's report in the morning, that his patient was in a fair way of recovery, they took their leave of him in the most friendly manner, and proceeded on their journey.

Hobart remained more than a week at Princeton before he could travel with safety, and then returned to Philadelphia. Loss of blood, the agitation to which his mind had been subject, and corporal fatigue, had reduced him amazingly; his countenance appeared extremely wan, on which a settled melancholy seemed to be established; this the bandage on his forehead also rendered still more gloomy. On beholding him in this condition, and not being well satisfied with his account of the means by which he had received so severe a wound, Mr. Harris began to entertain some fears of a mental derangement; he accordingly acquainted Mrs.

Harris

Harris with his suspicions, who was greatly disturbed, and resolved to have him under her own care.

Hobart, though he had learned that his mistress was not returned, and perceived that the house in which she used to reside was still unoccupied, was yet unwilling to quit Philadelphia; nor could he be prevailed upon, till Mr. Harris assured him he could by no other means satisfy his aunt, and that he might return in a few days.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Presents an agreeable surprise.

HOBART, at last, after excusing himself for several days, under various pretences, very reluctantly set out for the house of Mr. Harris. On his arrival his aunt clasped him in her arms, wept abundantly, and embraced him with the tenderness of a parent.

The first effusions of her affection having subsided, she exhorted him to be cheerful, and reconcile himself to stay with her for some time; then introducing her little daughter, about twelve years of age, she told him she would fetch two other companions presently. So saying, she left the room, and in a few minutes after, a young lady entered, with whose features Hobart was instantly struck. Little Harris then ran, and catching her by the hand, said, “ here
“ cousin,

"cousin, this is our pretty Miss Green." Hobart had scarcely paid her his respects, before his aunt entered, with the lovely object of his tenderest wishes. The young gentleman and his mistress, at this unexpected encounter, were agitated by emotions which must have discovered they were no strangers to each other, had not the lady, with the greatest presence of mind, recovered herself, while Mrs. Harris was saying, "Here, master James, I have the honour to introduce you to Mrs. Thebs;" and then with the most engaging sweetness, began to rally him upon his embarrassment, which she attributed to her sister's charms.

This pleasantry perfectly meeting Mrs. Harris's approbation, "ah! ah! ah!" (said she) master James, what! you will not be in a hurry to return to Philadelphia again, will you?" Thus did the ingenuity of Mrs. Thebs divert Mrs. Harris's attention from the true cause

cause of Hobarts embarrassment; but the feelings of poor Miss Green were never considered; she quitted the room, covered with blushes, and was found by Mrs. Harris and her little daughter, who instantly followed, in an adjacent parlour, sobbing most piteously.

Here reader, if by thy own feelings thou beest unable to discover the cause of this young lady's tears, it will save thee much trouble to pass over many of the following pages; but if thou beest interested in those precious trifles which escape the multitude, proceed with me, and occasionally drop a sympathetic tear.

While Mrs. Harris and her little daughter were employed in comforting her sister, Mrs. Thebs remained alone with our hero, who was so confounded by the presence of his mistress, that he could not speak a word. The lady perceiving his situation, smilingly said, "lord, sir, " you

"you seem as much affected now, as
 "when I saw you at the lecture on
 "heads." "Yes, madam (replied Hobart)
 "and from the very same cause." "O
 "Sir, that's impossible, for there is no
 "such hideous figure here to be fright-
 "ened at." "No, madam, but here is
 "a lovely figure by whose favour alone
 "I can live, and whose absence has
 "nearly killed me." At this instant
 entered little Harris, and hearing the
 latter part of this sentence, said, "who
 "has almost killed you, cousin?" "A
 "very cruel, hard hearted young lady,
 "said he;" "and I am sure somebody
 "has almost killed poor Miss Green;
 (replied the little wench) for she is
 "gone into the garden with mamma,
 "sobbing ready to break her heart; and
 "I desire that you will not tease her any
 "more; come, you must go with me to
 "the garden."

The parties having joined, while the two sisters and little Harris were at some distance, Mrs. Harris informed her nephew, that the eldest of these ladies was married some months since to Mr. Thebs, Mr. Harris's particular friend, and late partner; and that Miss Green was a younger sister: "Mr. Thebs, (continued she) being obliged to visit a plantation he has lately purchased, a considerable way up the country, brought his wife with him on a visit, to wait till his return, which, perhaps, may not be yet this month, and her sister came with her as a companion; they are two very agreeable young ladies, and finding such company, you will not be in a hurry to leave us. See! how we have wounded the delicacy of that little lady," (said she, pointing to Miss Green, who was at some distance) "she has not yet recovered herself."

In

In the course of the evening, Mrs. Harris could not help complimenting her nephew upon the cheerfulness and satisfaction, with which he seemed to enjoy himself; at the same time, she pleasantly observed, that since the presence of the ladies had so far prevailed, she doubted not but they possessed sufficient influence to effect a perfect cure.

A mind possessed of exquisite sensibility, though it enjoys, by taking cognizance of the most minute incidents, pleasures unknown to souls of a grosser texture, yet is it subject to a greater share of poignant mortification, than one whose nature is less susceptible.

In affairs of love, the slightest touches are generally sufficient to set in motion all the powers of a delicate disposition; but, to use a metaphor, if a greater portion be administered at once than the

D 2

patient

patient can bear, it frequently causes convulsions.

It is not surprising that Miss Green, having entered the apartment where Hobart was, should be struck with the engaging figure and graceful deportment of the young gentleman, especially as the impression approached her tender heart, dressed in the sympathizing rayment of pity; for she had heard Mrs. Harris say she expected a nephew from Philadelphia, a youth of the most happy accomplishments, who, by too strict an application to study, had lately lost all his cheerfulness, and she was afraid his health was endangered. Thus, while Miss Green was actuated by those sentiments of compassion, associated with the sensations produced by the appearance of the young gentleman, Mrs. Thebs entered, and the embarrassment, which was the consequence, being attributed to the effect

effect of her beauty, overcharged her delicate frame, and was the cause of all that sobbing in the adjacent parlour.

Though Miss Green was now tolerably recovered, yet she found her little heart agitated by a new sensation, to which it was heretofore an utter stranger; nor had she dared ever since to direct her eyes towards the young gentleman; and when Mrs. Harris hinted that her nephew's vivacity was owing to the presence of the ladies, she began to breathe quickly, and with much difficulty avoided another paroxysm.

The Abbe de Chateaufneuf observed to Madame de l'Enclos, "that the passion of love is a fancy founded upon the senses; a blind sentiment which supposes no merit in the object."

"that excites it, &c." * Leaving the reader to accept of this definition from an authority so respectable, or to furnish himself with a better from his own experience, it will be only necessary here to endeavour to trace its progress, as far as it respects the circumstances involved in these memoirs.

The first symptoms of the passion of love are doubtless extremely pure; a pleasing influence is diffused through every faculty, and it bears towards its object the most delicate reverence and respect, perfectly untinctured with sensual inclinations; but this spark of terrestrial bliss, retains but for a short time its purity; grosser sensations

* L'amour ne lui parut plus qu'un gout fonde sur les sens, un sentiment aveugle qui ne suppose aucun merite dans l'objet qui le fait naître, ni ne l'engage a aucune reconnaissance; en un mot un caprice dont la duree ne depend pas de nous, et sujet au degout et au repentir.

sensations almost immediately succeed, and increase upon the smallest familiarity.

Thus our young hero, at first, thought himself happy in viewing the dear object of his love at a distance; then, he was distracted to be near her person, and now, that he was continually blessed with her company, he was rendered miserable by the presence of others.

The lady, it must be confessed, though her eyes refused to conceal the sentiments of her heart, avoided as much as possible any private interview; in the course of a fortnight, however, they were once or twice left together by accident, when the impetuous youth, instantly clasped her trembling in his arms, and ravished a delicious kiss from her lips, which she had neither power, nor inclination, to refuse.

Rendered almost frantic by restraint, and seeing no prospect of half an hour's

D 4

indulgence

indulgence with her alone, he had recourse to stratagem; feigning himself indisposed, for several mornings following, he quitted his chamber very late; where he had waited, in hopes of seeing Miss Green, who took a part of her sister's bed, descend first. For a whole week together he suffered disappointment; but at last, had the satisfaction of seeing that young lady trip down stairs nearly an hour earlier than usual; his heart now palpitating with joy, he instantly betook himself to the door of his mistress's apartment, which, finding upon the jar, he gently opened, and softly stept to her bed side.

Here he beheld his charming fair, locked in the arms of soft repose; his senses were ravished by the beautiful symmetry of her well turned limbs, whose charming proportion was easily discoverable through the thin drapery by which they were covered; one of her delicate

delicate arms was negligently bent over her head; her breast was more than half uncovered; and her fine long hair, in bewitching disorder, covered part of her lovely face and neck.

Here the youth gazed, for a moment, in amorous extacy; but being no longer able to resist, he applied his mouth to her ruby lips, and stole a gentle kiss; when she instantly awoke, seized his officious hand, and cried softly, "O! Mr. Hobart! for God's sake." —

The enraptured youth was proceeding to pursue the advantage his ingenuity had procured him, when the voice of little Harris, who frequently entered the apartment of the ladies before they rose, was heard upon the stairs.

Not a moment was to be lost; the young gentleman was instantly obliged

D 5 to

to conceal himself behind the head of the bedstead, where he had the mortification to remain till the lady had dressed, and, descending with her little innocent deliverer, gave him liberty to depart.

*Is of great importance to those whose hearts can
be interested in affairs of love.*

MORTIFIED at this disappointment, and perceiving that her fears would not easily be overcome, however potently the soft sentiments of her heart might plead, he resolved to change his ground, and endeavour to excite jealousy, which he hoped would effect a formidable diversion in his favour. To this end he affected much vivacity, disregarded every little occasion which presented itself to catch a momentary interview with her, and paid every attention in his power to the younger sister.

This manœuvre succeeded to his wish; he soon had the satisfaction to see a considerable alteration in her conduct;

D 6

she

she no longer studiously shunned his company; but, on the contrary, seemed to favour an opportunity of seeing him alone, and could not conceal her anguish at his particular assiduity to her sister. Pleased with the prospect of success, he determined to pursue his present plan, till he could avail himself of its effect to advantage, and therefore redoubled his attention to Miss Green.

This young lady, after she had recovered from the violent emotions occasioned by Hobart's arrival, began, as it has been observed, to feel her heart agitated by a new sensation; this tender impression, which, by an ardent lover, might have been increased to a passion attended with the most scrupulous suspicion, the polite attention of civility only improved to the most generous and disinterested love.

Hobart's

Hobart's purest sentiments were all enslaved by the charms of the other sister; yet the maiden beauty, and innocent familiarity of Miss Green, frequently produced an ebullition of the senses, and induced him to take some little liberties, at which, perhaps, had they been conducted with impetuosity, she might have been alarmed. Thus, while he pursued his stratagem, to enforce the object of his love to conform to his wishes, he found, in the company of her sister, a pleasing amusement for his senses; and the young lady, whose unsuspecting heart was wholly devoted to him, permitted him progressively to indulge in freedoms, the very idea of which would, at first, have been insupportable.

Having one afternoon wandered a considerable way into the woods, it being extremely warm, and the lady finding herself rather fatigued, they sat down under

under the shade of some trees; here the youth, tempted by the opportunity, began to amuse himself with a repetition of the liberties he had frequently taken, which, at last, produced a sudden effervescence of the senses, and precipitated them into unpremeditated guilt.

The voluptuous tumult had scarcely subsided, when all the mortifying horrors of her degraded condition, presented themselves to the young lady's mind; and what rendered her grief more poignant, the listless youth, instead of endeavouring to alleviate her misery, by acts of tenderness, regarded her with a sort of stupid apathy. He supported her to return, but felt this the most disagreeable duty he had ever considered himself obliged to perform; a vain attempt was made, previous to their arrival, to compose themselves, but it was impossible; the lady could not conceal the keen remorse with

with which her tender heart was wrung; nor could Hobart, in the presence of the elder sister, whose beauty had inspired his heart with sensations so different, behold the object of mere sensual gratification without disgust.

A tender look, a sigh, would have afforded the miserable Miss Green infinite relief; but, no! Nature is too honest; none but veterans in iniquity can adopt hypocrisy on these occasions: the faculties of the youth were fettered by a sort of sullen concern; nor could he reflect on what had passed but with pain, because he conceived, it in some degree, engaged his respect, where his heart was in nowise interested. How different were the feelings of the unfortunate young lady! — Her little heart had imbibed the sweet passion on his first arrival; this gradually increased, without being alarmed into suspicion by any

any amorous assault, till it arrived at such a degree of adoration, that she would willingly have entrusted him with more than her life; yet now, for the last favour which love could bestow, he could not return one tender look.

The alteration, so visible in the countenance of the wretched Miss Green, could not pass unnoticed; she was obliged therefore to have recourse to the general excuse of sudden illness, and retired very early to her apartment. This gave Hobart the advantage of enjoying the company of his mistress, during a great part of the evening; for Mrs. Harris was busily employed in some domestic arrangements, and they were not much interrupted by the occasional visits of her little daughter. This opportunity was, perhaps, the more desirable, as the return of Mr. Thebs was now daily expected.

The

The young gentleman, unable to compose his mind, even in the presence of his mistress, sat revolving the adventure of the afternoon, when little Harris, who had officiously attended Miss Green to her chamber, returned, and said with a degree of innocent confidence, "ah! Mr. Hobart! what have you done to Miss Green? I am sure she is the sweetest tempered young lady, and was very chearful at dinner." This interrogatory, put so peremptorily, after what had happened, quite discomposed him; after labouring, however, for some seconds, under great embarrassment, he said, "indeed, Miss, I pity all young ladies, when they are ill, though many of them are so incapable of pity themselves." "O dear, how can you say young ladies are incapable of pity?" replied the little lady. "I'll tell you Miss, a striking instance," continued he, "I knew a very pretty young lady
" in

“ in Philadelphia, whom a gentleman
 “ loved to a degree of distraction, but
 “ particular reasons deprived him of the
 “ pleasure of throwing himself at her
 “ feet; finding every means he could
 “ contrive, to be blessed for a few moments, with her company, attended
 “ with some hazard to her peace of
 “ mind, he submitted patiently to the
 “ severity of his condition, rather than
 “ endanger her tranquillity; hoping,
 “ that, as she could be no stranger to his
 “ sentiments, he should be entitled, at
 “ least, to her compassion. In the course
 “ of a few weeks, he was fortunate
 “ enough to find that accident had
 “ placed him next to her at a public
 “ exhibition; here, also, his regard to
 “ her happiness induced him to suppress those emotions, with which, she
 “ must be sensible, he was agitated. —
 “ Immediately after this transient happiness, she was removed from his sight,
 “ he

" he knew not where ; and though, some
 " time after, by an incident the most
 " extraordinary, they met again, where
 " the reason which induced him to for-
 " bear avowing his sentiments, was
 " removed ; when she also saw to what
 " a pitiable condition her absence had
 " reduced him, and knew that an event
 " was hourly expected which was likely
 " to separate them for ever, yet the
 " cruel beauty seemed to delight in his
 " torments, and denied him even the
 " consolation of her pity." " O bar-
 " barous ! barbarous ! (cried the little
 " lady) he certainly deserved her pity.
 " And pray what is become of the gen-
 " tleman and lady now ?" " The last
 " time I heard of them, (replied he)
 " the lady still continued cruel, and the
 " gentleman unhappy."

The lovely Thebs instantly under-
 stood to whom the narrative applied,
 and

and was so agitated during its delivery, that, had not the subject engrossed the whole attention of little Harris, she must have perceived it.

Being soon after left together, the young gentleman sat silent for a moment, and then fetched a deep sigh. At this, the lady, directing towards him a tender look, said, " I hope, Mr. Hobart, you " are in no danger of a relapse to your " late melancholy." " If that hope was " sincere, madam, (replied he) there " would not be the least danger." " Indeed, Mr. Hobart (said the lady, with a voice expressive of the most engaging sincerity) if the influence of my good " wishes can avail you any thing, you " have them most heartily." " Ah! " my dear lady! if you could but believe how far my happiness depends " upon them, you would not so cruelly " baffle my endeavours to claim, at least, " your

" your compassion ; and will you, now
" that the moment approaches, when,
" perhaps, I shall lose you for ever, deny
" me the"——" O ! Mr. Hobart ! I am
" extremely unfortunate—for heaven's
" sake, urge me to say no more." Here
the tears began to bedew her lovely
cheeks ; but the enraptured youth flew,
pressed her to his bosom, and kissed them
as they flowed. While he thus held her
in his arms, dissolved in tears, he felt his
post too important to be relinquished un-
conditionally. " What (said he) am I then
" so unfortunate, as not to be intitled to
" one tender expression, to cheer me
" through the gloomy despair in which
" your absence will presently involve
" me ?" " O ! Mr. Hobart ! you know but
" too well you suffer not alone ; but (con-
tinued she, her lovely countenance being
overwhelmed with the most charming
distress) surely you would not wish to
" make me wretched." Here the arrival
of

of Mr. Harris, from Philadelphia, terminated this tender scene. This interruption was extremely mortifying to the youth, who was on the point of settling the preliminaries of a most advantageous treaty, which he expected would be ratified the first favourable opportunity.

CHAP. VI.

Contains some moral observations, a singular instance of disappointment, and is likely to provoke a sympathetic tear.

Now, reader, for a moment, let us consider the motto in the Title Page, which may be thus paraphrased, " Vices will corrupt the purest principles, " when moral discipline is suffered to fall into decay;" if thou hast hitherto trod the slippery path of rectitude, with a firm foot, be cautious that neither idle curiosity, nor negligence, leads thee too near the terrible precipice, where, in a moment, one false step may degrade thy spotless innocence, entail on thee indelible infamy, and, what is still worse, subject thy own conscience to inextricable remorse.

The

The most abandoned of our species have not, all at once, adopted vices of the most horrid deformity, but have approached them by gradations. So the smallest relaxation, in the purity of our manners, is one step on the road; and though we may not be criminal, yet we trifle with danger, and, like an unsuspecting youth with a recruiting party, are frequently trepanned, or become volunteers, by intoxication. Hence it is evident, that a scrupulous adherence to moral precept, in our private conduct, is as necessary to guard us against the snares of vice, as a strict obedience to formal ceremony in the center of politeness, to preserve our manners from regenerating into the barbarism of vulgarity.

We find a striking example of this, in the melancholy case of the unfortunate Miss Green; who, possessing a considerable share of personal accomplishment,

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an amiable sweetness of temper, calculated to promote conjugal happiness, and a sympathizing heart, formed for all the tender purposes of maternal oeconomy, lost in one fatal moment, through a small relaxation in moral discipline, at first by no means criminal, that conscious innocence which shields the tender cares of wife and mother.

Never was repentance more sincere than that of this young lady; but penitence could not recall the deed, nor restore to her wounded breast that sweet tranquillity, which ever awaits the footsteps of innocence; she saw not, at first, the extent of her misery; her juvenile mind, which had hitherto been engaged by the harmless subjects of girlish simplicity, was now obliged to combat the terrifying retinue of ideas accompanying self-reproach. The efforts of little Miss Harris, which were sure to enliven her maiden

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countenance

countenance with a smile, had now lost all their efficacy; no benign tear flowed to relieve her heart swollen with grief; nor, after a few hours reflection, could even her seducer himself have afforded her any relief; for she conceived herself no longer worthy of his notice. An imadversion did not palliate her troubles, it only exhibited more forcibly to her mind, the dark shades of her misfortune, and pointed out pious resignation, as the only pillow, on which she could hope for repose, on this side the grave: thus was this ill fated young lady, whose native vivacity might have cheered the whole circle of her acquaintance, consigned a prey to gloomy penitence, ere the bloom of youth had ripened on her cheeks.

Here, reader, previous to resuming the thread of our narrative, it may not be improper to observe, that there are many

many inferior errors, to which life is subject, that admit of a remedy; by falling into these, we gain experience, and become wary; but the above is one of those which are irreparable; and while incautious youth, void of suspicion, is subject to the impetuosity of the passions, there is no light to direct it, through the dark labyrinth of danger, but the twinkling lamp of moral precept. Whoever, therefore, loses sight of it, but for a moment, though he escape without injury, is most certainly in imminent danger.

Heartily tired of a situation which had proved so fatal to her peace, and wishing to retire to a place where her sorrow would not be subject to so severe a scrutiny, three days after the unfortunate circumstance, the unhappy young lady returned to Philadelphia, in company with Mr. Harris.

Hobart finding, by her departure, the greatest obstacle to his success removed, and aware that the return of Mr. Thebs was hourly expected, redoubled his attention to his mistress, who, after the late explanation, was unable to make any formidable defence.

Having met, one afternoon, in a little bower in the garden, they mingled their tears at the severity of fortune, in placing so cruel a bar to their happiness; when the young gentleman, throwing himself at her feet, prayed, in the most supplicating manner, that she would permit him to visit her in her apartment, after the family had retired; this she, at first, peremptorily refused; but he urged his intreaty with such engaging impetuosity, imploring her, with tears, not to refuse him this last pledge of her compassion, and promised, in so solemn a manner, to take no ungenerous advan-

tage

tage of her indulgence, that she was unable to refuse a tacit acquiescence.

Here, ye cautious matrons, and ye virtuous maids, whose virginity has stood the test of forty years, I expect you ready to pronounce, on this lady, the most terrible anathema. Be assured I shall not attempt her justification; but let me intreat you, for a moment, to consider the peculiarity of her case, and to examine whether, at no period of your lives, under such circumstances, if a youth, endowed with every engaging accomplishment, and for whom your heart became an involuntary advocate, had thrown himself at your feet, to solicit such a favour, your prudence might not have been shaken. If, after such an appeal, you can find no room for mercy, you may proceed instantly to record judgment.

Hobart waited, with impatience, for the arrival of the happy moment, in which he should enjoy the company of his mistress, without the fear of interruption : his imagination was also, perhaps, a little warmed by the ideas of time, place, opportunity, and the recollection of his former visit to her apartment : being unable, at last, to support any longer, the sluggish progress of time, he retired to his chamber very early, where he waited more than an hour, before he had the pleasure of hearing the rest of the family come up stairs.

The lady, who could not well mistake the cause of his restless gestures, and his early departure, began to entertain some fears ; and, on entering her apartment, locked her door, taking the key with her, in a firm resolution to open it no more during the night. Then, applauding the triumph of her prudence, she deliberately

berately resumed her nocturnal dishabille, and resigned herself to her pillow.

Silence now prevailing in every part of the house, and a time sufficient having elapsed for the first approaches of sleep, Hobart ventured to sally forth, and, coming to the door of the lady's apartment, he gently tapped; but finding his first signal disregarded, he ventured to repeat it somewhat louder; this also failing, he had recourse to other means; for, though young, he was not so unskilful a general as to trust the issue of an enterprize, of such importance, to negotiation only. He therefore went back to his bed room for a key, which he had previously taken an opportunity of modifying to the lock, and, on his return, had the good fortune to find it's introduction not obstructed by one on the opposite side.

Having opened the door, he entered, re-locked it, and was at her bedside before the lady had the least suspicion of his being in the room ; thus, she found, that too great a reliance on her own security, had rendered her almost defenceless ; for when she had entertained some notions of admitting him, she was determined not to be in bed.

Having completely carried the outworks, he found himself now able to enforce an unconditional surrender, and instantly prepared to take possession of the inmost recesses of the garrison. In vain did she plead his promise to take no advantage ; the treaty having been first broken on her part, by refusing him admittance, he held himself bound by no conditions ; and, after a slight opposition, which was more pleasing than formidable, he found himself completely *inter lodes*, when sobs and tears, the last signals

signals of surrender, announced him at liberty to reap the reward of his victory.

At this instant, somebody was heard knocking at the door; and, in a few seconds, the arrival of Mr. Thebs was announced on the stairs, just in time to prevent the dishonour which awaited him; Hobart was now obliged to make a precipitate retreat to his own apartment, leaving behind him a certain article of dress, which might have created groundless suspicion, had not the lady, with much prudence, taken care to conceal it, before her husband had entered the chamber.

In the morning, Mrs. Harris introduced her nephew to Mr. Thebs; when Hobart and the lady were under some difficulty to preserve the appearance of perfect indifference. As they were about to return to Philadelphia, Hobart begged

he might be permitted to accompany them; he affected much vivacity on the road, but the old gentleman regarded him with a perfect indifference; and though, at taking leave, on their arrival, he gave him an invitation to pay them an occasional visit, Hobart perceived it was not delivered in a manner as if he wished him to accept it.

Although Hobart's heart had been completely subdued by the charms of beauty, and it was yet the most pleasing object of his contemplation, he was now by no means insensible to every other impression; on the contrary, finding himself unable to indulge in the principal, he began to pursue subordinate pleasures. Accordingly he became very gay in his dress, frequented assemblies, and in all places of public amusement, and, for two or three months, ran into all the extravagancies of dissipation.

In

In the course of this time, poor Miss Green found herself in a condition which threatened to expose her to public shame; but profound grief had so enfeebled her delicate frame, that she was now in a fair way of being speedily relieved; for a deep decline, the consequence of mis-carriage, was conducting her, hastily, towards that abode, where the pious are always sure to be relieved from their anguish; and her penitence had been so sincere, that she now beheld her approaching fate with perfect tranquillity.

As Mrs. Thebs was sitting at her bedside, a few days before her death, having remained silent for some time, and observing nobody else in the room, "Nancy" (said she, taking her by the hand, and regarding her with a vivacity, which for a moment, suspended that gloom, which death had already begun to spread over her lovely face) "will you indulge

E 6

" me

“ me in a favour? It is, perhaps, the
“ last I shall ever ask you; but you
“ must keep it a secret, till after my
“ death.” Her sister’s tears, for some
time, prevented her from making any
reply; being assured, however, at last,
that she might rely on her with the
utmost confidence; “ then, first (said
she) be so obliging as to inform me what
“ is become of Mr. Hobart.” On being
told he was still in Philadelphia, and
figuring away in the gayest circles; “ ah!
(continued she) he little knew what a
“ wound he gave a heart totally devoted
“ to him; nor shall he ever know his
“ cold indifference killed me. There
“ was a time, when his compassion alone
“ might have made even shame sup-
“ portable.—But I must not blame him;
“ he never knew how I loved him.” —
She then directed her sister to take a
letter out of her box, which she request-
ed might be delivered to him, after her
death.

death. "Here, (said she) take with it
 "this ring; tell him this was all I had
 "left, he had my heart long before;
 "should this intitle my memory to a tear
 "of pity, it is all that I request."

A few days after the death of Miss Green, Mrs. Thebs informed her husband of her sister's request; when Hobart was sent for, and she, in his presence, gave him the ring and letter, repeating, verbatim, the message with which she had been intrusted. As Hobart had not before heard of the death of Miss Green, he felt himself much terrified, and took his leave instantly, in order to peruse the contents of the letter, which he found as follows: —

"Dear Sir,

"Ere this reach you, I shall
 "be no longer in a state to blush at that
 "term, nor need I then be ashamed to
 "avow

“ avow that love, which nothing but
“ death could obliterate ; but my suffer-
“ ings have made me less vain than to
“ suppose this a subject worth troubling
“ you with, and more generous than to
“ reproach you. No, — I hope the
“ merciful Judge, who cropped short the
“ little innocent offspring of her crime,
“ has accepted the fervent supplications
“ of it's penitent mother,—but to pray
“ you will grant her one favour, who
“ could deny you nothing. Alas ! con-
“ signed to the grave, what have I now
“ to bestow ? O ! charming youth !
“ formed by nature to please ; and un-
“ likely, at present, to acquire instruc-
“ tion by adversity, be not so intoxi-
“ cated with pleasure, as to neglect that
“ duty, which alone can afford comfort
“ in the awful moments of dissolution.
“ Bear in mind the brevity and impor-
“ tance of life ; and consider, that plea-
“ sures, purchased at the expence of the
“ peace

"peace of others, are sure to contain
"seeds of remorse. Too late I discovered your sentiments towards my
"sister, and perceived the condition of
"her heart; but never have I wounded
"her feelings, by speaking to her on
"the subject. Innocence is yet seated
"on her countenance, or I would never
"have made her the bearer of this.
"Spare her,—spare her innocence, for
"heaven's sake! This is the last request
"of one who loved you; and may you
"be rewarded at the fountain of divine
"mercy!

"Adieu, for ever,

ADEL. GREEN.

On reading this epistle, Hobart wept abundantly; never, till this moment, had her merits presented themselves to his mind; a hundred little instances of her benign disposition occurred to his memory.

memory. He viewed the ring, and in a moment recollected, that, on the unfortunate day when they wandered into the woods, he had taken it from the finger on which she wore it, and put it on the bridal one. He read the letter again, wetted it with his tears, and felt the most poignant remorse, on considering how severely she must have suffered; that pining in secret, without daring to communicate the cause of her grief, she had been hastily precipitated into an untimely grave, without a compassionate expression from him to whom her heart was devoted, and whose unruly desires had robbed her of her innocence.

This tragic circumstance afflicted him much, and he instantly resolved to comply strictly with her last request, as a tribute justly due to the memory of this hapless maid.

While

While the melancholy image of Miss Green's sufferings preserved it's ascendancy in his mind, Hobart kept this resolution; but time which destroys all things, beginning to diminish it's force, he could no longer behold the lovely Thebs without feeling the strength of his determination greatly endangered, especially when he revolved in his mind, the circumstances which occurred at Mr. Harris's. At last, after a short struggle, passion prevailed; and now, throwing aside all restraint, he determined to leave no means untried to gratify his wishes.

Here, fair reader, suspend for a moment thy indignation, while we consider the nature of his crime.

It unfortunately so happens, that men usually form resolutions while actuated by some lively sensation, either of pleasure or of pain; and such is the texture

tixture of human nature, that the more vivid these impressions are, the sooner they will be effaced from the mind. The truth of this observation, it is presumed, will readily be admitted, especially as it is not meant to be pleaded in excuse for the unpardonable crime of a faithless lover, who, after having promised his mistress that his raptures should never cease, presently shews his perfidy by a sort of cold indifference; nor used to exculpate a widow who has been with difficulty prevented from burying herself in the same grave with her deceased husband, and yet, soon after, accompanies another to the hymeneal altar. All that is meant indeed, is to remark, what is much to be lamented, that a want of a sufficient power to persevere in our resolutions, is a crime chargeable to the greatest part of mankind. It is certain, our adventurer's conduct exhibits it's deformity strikingly in this instance; yet the

the evil may be traced to a higher source, and had he complied with Miss Green's request, though it was all the restitution he could then have made, it would have been but a poor atonement for the accumulated sorrows, with which he had assisted to load that ill-fated young lady.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

Completely changes the scene, introduces many other characters, and contains a curious dissertation on gaming.

W H I L E he was thus employed, an incident occurred which totally disconcerted all his machinations: his father, who, in consequence of the troubles in Virginia, had some time before quitted Williamsburgh, now came to Philadelphia; and finding, by the gay turn of his son's disposition, he was not calculated for business, nor likely to derive much advantage by staying there any longer, took him to the British army, where, through the interest of Lords Cornwallis and Dunmore, he soon procured him a commission in one of the regiments of Loyalists.

Here

Here his genteel demeanor procured him the favour of his superior officers, and his character for personal courage was effectually established, both by his conduct in several excursions against the enemy, and in an affair of honour with a British officer.

At the close of the campaign, he marched, with the corps, into winter quarters at New York, which was, at that time, the center of gaiety and dissipation. Here his vanity might have been flattered by the attention of the ladies; but the image of the first object of his affection was yet so predominant in his mind, that he, for a time, could not embrace those little favours, beauty is unable to refuse a youth of genteel accomplishments, moving in the first circles of the beau monde.

In the interval whilst time was gradually dissolving the fetters with which
beauty

beauty had enslaved him, and before he was sufficiently disengaged to receive a second impression, he began to relish the pleasures of society, and accordingly visited a tavern, which was then much frequented by the gentlemen of the army, and all the fashionable loungers of the place.

This seems to have been the critical period which gave a bias to his mind; and, in a great measure, influenced his future conduct. Such a period most certainly occurs in the life of every one, though sometimes difficult to be traced, where there is little vicissitude; and a careful attention to this, by those who superintend young men, might frequently preserve them from disgrace, and secure to society many useful members; not by a composition of precept and example, administered in the formal vehicle of instruction, at a small portion of which

the

the patient often revolts, but, as the mind is occasionally making transitions, and cannot be long without a primary object to engage it, by watching carefully the moment it is about to make a fresh choice, and artfully diverting it to some harmless subject, till it has acquired a firmness not easily shaken by the allurements of vice.

At this tavern there was a billiard table, at which a large party trifled away at least seven or eight hours every day; besides the players, there was a numerous assemblage, who continually hazarded various sums of money on the issue of the game; several other apartments were occupied by parties at cards, chess, back-gammon, &c. &c.

At these diversions Hobart constantly attended, and was, for some time, an indifferent spectator; but, having no principal

principal object which engaged his attention, and his mind being in a state of vacancy, he began, by degrees, to feel himself a little interested.

It will be needless here to say any thing on the ardency with which a youth, at twenty, engages in that which attracts his fancy, or on the fascinating snares, and dangerous tendency of gaming; a reader, of the smallest acquaintance with human nature, must be well convinced of the one, and learned moralists have largely treated on the destructive consequences of the other.

Our adventurer soon began to relish this amusement; and the propensity increasing, he presently became a player of an inferior rank, and sported small sums of money. Whilst he was thus engaged, an incident occurred, which suddenly-precipitated him into excesses.

The

The wanton figure of a Miss Davis, a little comic actress, who came to perform that season at the theatre, inflamed him again with amorous inclinations; he paid his addresses to her with great assiduity; but this little lady happened to be so phlegmatic, that she could resist every other temptation but gold, and with that it was not in Hobart's power to tempt her.

This lady was particularly favoured by, and a constant visitor of, Mrs. Parsons, a lady of New York, who, from obscurity, had arrived at a state of riches and affluence, in the following extraordinary manner:—

Mr. Parsons, her husband, having, from his earliest infancy, been subject to a natural imbecility, bordering on idiotism, his father, who lived to see him near thirty years of age, and left
F him

him a decent competency, fearing he might be subject to imposition, ordered the money to be paid him periodically, and a Mr. Tinmore, an attorney, was appointed trustee.

Tinmore, though he would have done more honour to the plough tail, than to any profession where the brain is employed, was by no means deficient in point of craft. In order, therefore, to make the most of his charge, he boarded Parsons at the house of one of his dependents, at a very low rate, and, allowing him a slender supply of clothes, pocketed the rest of the money.

Parsons had existed in this manner about ten years, when his uncle, who had resided in the island of Jamaica, died, leaving him heir, with an indisputable title to a property worth five thousand a year.

As

As soon as Tinmore was informed of this, he took Parsons into his own house, treated him with the greatest respect, and began to devise how he should lay his fingers on this vast property.

Tinmore had a daughter, about eighteen years of age, whom Parsons offered to marry, as soon as he was informed of his good fortune; but the young lady shewing some signs of repugnance, her father had recourse to other means.

He had a sister about forty years of age, who, from her infancy, had been in gentlemen's service; this lady, though she was very corpulent, and, in person, by no means captivating, he considered as a proper instrument, by which he might secure to his family, a principal part of all this property.

Having made his conditions with his sister, in a few days he induced Parsons to accept her hand, by persuading him she only stood as a substitute for his daughter, whose timidity was so great, that she could not be prevailed upon to appear in her own person.

Poor Parsons was soon taught passive obedience, and compelled to be reconciled to his yolk fellow, who feeling the weight of her own importance, broke through every condition she had made with her brother, and instantly deprived him of that control he had assumed over her husband's property, taking upon herself the whole œconomy; for though she was proud of what she called a professional man, for a brother, she conceived herself insulted, firmly believing that nature had been more bountiful to her, in the dispensation of mental gifts, than to all the rest of the family.

Feeling

Feeling herself now in that situation to which she conceived her own merit intitled her, she resolved to disengage her natural disposition from every restraint, and to indulge in all the comforts of this life, often affirming she should be sorry to leave a shilling behind her.

As, however, she proposed soon to go to Jamaica, there to reside on her husband's estate, her brother, for the interest of his family, found it convenient to make his peace with her. This act of condescension so pleased her, that she instantly took his daughter under her own protection.

Hobart, attracted by the charms of the little bewitching daughter of Thalia, soon found means to make himself a welcome guest at the table of Mrs. Parsons; on his first visit, he was pleased to find there an elderly gentleman of

the name of Torquid, whose skill at billiards he had often admired, and whose integrity was in such high estimation at the tavern, that, in cases of dispute, he was always appealed to, and his decisions were greatly respected.

He now learnt that this gentleman was a professor of physic, from England, a man of great skill, who, having acquired a considerable property, had, for some time, declined the practice. Hobart applied himself assiduously to court the Doctor's acquaintance, but found him, at first, greatly on the reserve; after some time, however, when this severity had considerably relaxed, he one evening, having lost every shilling of a supply he had just received from his father, requested the Doctor to lend him ten guineas, with which he instantly complied; but the same series of ill-luck continuing, Hobart was, in a few hours, disincumbered of this sum also.

On

On the following morning, Hobart, seeing the Doctor, apologized for not being able to replace the money he had borrowed, complained of his ill-fortune, and said that as soon as could procure a few guineas, he would put himself again in the way of her favours, when he hoped the blind goddess would be more propitious.

The Doctor, who really began to entertain a partiality for him, but wished, perhaps, to decline affording him any further pecuniary aid, seriously advised him to be no more a candidate for the favours of fortune, assuring him she had very little influence in gaming of any sort.

On being urged to be a little more explicit,—“Would a wise man (said the “Doctor) leave any thing to the direction of chance, which, by a little “system, he might render subservient
F 4 “ to

" to his will? It is the same with game-
 " sters, as with mankind in general; the
 " great mass are dupes to a few knaves
 " of the first class, from which a gradation
 " of knavery may be traced down to the
 " humblest efforts, where there is not
 " sufficient skill to escape detection;
 " and a man who depends upon the issue
 " of chance, amongst gamblers, is as
 " completely deceived, as a man in
 " common life, who believes every thing
 " which is written or said by his supe-
 " riors.

" Exactly conformable to the regula-
 " tions of society too, gamblers have
 " nicely drawn a line between right and
 " wrong; a knave who picks a man's
 " pocket privately, of his purse, is called
 " a scoundrel; but he who as effectually
 " obtain it's contents, by dexterity
 " at cards, is deemed a clever fellow.

" Again

" Again, in society at large, he who
 " has the ingenuity to extract a few guineas
 " from the pockets of the affluent,
 " or, by means of a little artifice, to lay
 " the public under a small contribution,
 " is condemned of theft, forgery, or
 " fraud; whilst that refined species of
 " swindling, called trade, has the sanction
 " of the law, and arch knaves, under
 " the denomination of professional men,
 " who undertake to guard men's souls,
 " bodies, and property, are daily committing
 " their depredations with impunity.

" Now, whether a man's purse be
 " delicately drawn out of his pocket,
 " by means of a piece of crooked wire;
 " made to disgorge itself, by a few tricks
 " at cards; lightened by the canting
 " imposition of a smooth tongued retailer;
 " or; taken in exchange for the unmeaning
 " jargon of a ghostly impostor;

“ emptied by a lying knave, with a long
 “ robe, under pretence of filling it; or
 “ it's contents extorted for the recom-
 “ mendation of a few poisonous ingre-
 “ dients, it is equally a robbery.

“ But, says the sage moralist, you
 “ will confess that a pick-pocket cannot
 “ be honest; yet are there not some who
 “ game fairly, many conscientious
 “ tradesmen, pious divines, lawyers of
 “ integrity, and physicians of honour
 “ and skill? Yes, and these are such
 “ as form the majority amongst
 “ tradesmen and gamesters, are dupes to
 “ the more artful, and never get rich.
 “ When such an individual appears in
 “ the professional tribe, he is considered,
 “ by the fraternity, as a weak, unworthy
 “ member; and if he has nothing to
 “ depend on but his own efforts, he is
 “ in great danger of coming to want.

“ It

" It is under cover of the terms honour, conscientiousness, and integrity,
 " that robbers of the most numerous
 " description take shelter; and the more
 " wealth they acquire, the more securely
 " can they commit their depredations;
 " for honour and integrity are generally
 " supposed to reside with the rich,
 " whilst dishonesty and poverty are
 " thought to be nearly allied; the pick-
 " pocket is much easier detected, as he
 " has no such subterfuge to cloak his
 " iniquity, for he cannot pretend to do
 " as he would be done unto.

" Your poverty demonstrates your
 " conduct as a gamester, as a man of the
 " world, you have yet scarcely, perhaps,
 " assumed a legible character; however,
 " take this piece of advice, when you
 " game, if your object be money, never
 " leave the issue intirely to chance; for
 " should even those with whom you are

" engaged do so, as you are all upon an
 " equality, the purpose you have in
 " view, is not likely to be accomplished.
 " In games of skill only, never contend
 " against a superior player, nor even
 " with your equal. When you have
 " recourse to art, in games of chance,
 " let it be so modified, that, should you
 " be detected, it may have the simple
 " appearance of error; for though what
 " is called cheating at cards, or picking
 " of pockets, be essentially less criminal
 " than many other modes of robbery,
 " they are such dangerous expedients to
 " have recourse to, that no wise man,
 " whilst he can make the public contri-
 " bute to his necessities, by other means
 " so perfectly secure, would attempt to
 " adopt."

Thus did this old sinner daily ex-
 pound his opinions to our adventurer,
 who, whilst he was charmed with his sin-
 gular originality, yielded implicitly to the
 force of his sophistry.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Exhibits some extraordinary opinions.

THOUGH Hobart had courted, in vain, the favours of the little actress, after sometime, he perceived he had engaged the affection both of Mrs. Parsons and her niece; indeed he had often entered into a pleasant *tete-a-tete* with the young lady, and was no stranger to her sentiments; but the passion of the aunt was so tumultuous, and she assailed him so suddenly, that it quite disconcerted him; she not only directed her jealous animosity against his favourite, the little actress, but her attempts to attract his favours so greatly disgusted him, that he was on the point of declining any future visits.

His

His friend, the Doctor, who was an original in iniquity, well acquainted with human nature, and no stranger either to his inclination or necessities, resolved to assist him with his advice: he therefore took an opportunity of paying Hobart a compliment on the importance of his conquest; and, assuming a very serious countenance, began to speak of the felicity he might promise himself in future.

“ The devil ! (cried Hobart) felicity
 “ from the favours of such a damn’d
 “ old piece of lumber as that ! ” — “ Most
 “ certainly, (replied the doctor) for she
 “ possesses attractions almost irresistible;
 “ and that I could demonstrate, in five
 “ minutes, to any one not entirely
 “ composed of tasteless apathy; but you
 “ men of pleasure, like the short-sighted
 “ multitude, if you cannot rush directly
 “ on the object of your pursuits, have
 “ no

"no notion of having recourse to circuition, or of submitting to a few pre-
 "vious conditions, which, though per-
 "haps a little displeasing, lead to certain
 "success.

"Are not you enamoured of little
 "Davis? and do you not perceive that
 "that old amorous beldam can furnish
 "you with the means by which you
 "might obtain her? She possesses gold,
 "the most powerful auxiliary in the art
 "of persuasion, which, when used pri-
 "vately, like a pick-lock key, bids defi-
 "ance to all opposition.

"In having recourse to these means,
 "you exactly follow the example of all
 "wise men, in every department of life.
 "Why does a man reconcile himself to
 "the drudgery of getting money, by
 "hard labour and abstinence? Not
 "because he delights in pain and morti-
 "fication,

"fication, but to obtain that which will
 "enable him to enjoy the pleasures he
 "has in prospect.

"Why is the soldier willing to occupy
 "the post of danger? Not because he
 "delights in exposing his person, but
 "that, by submitting to this unpleasing
 "condition, he may obtain honour and
 "reward.

"Science is as necessary to a man of
 "pleasure, as to a statesman, or a man
 "of business; like them too, he should
 "learn carefully to conceal the object
 "of his wishes, whilst he openly exhibits
 "a plausible one, as a pretext for
 "his conduct; for men delight in
 "thwarting the purposes of each other;
 "and nothing so much endangers the
 "success of an undertaking, as to shew
 "an open fondness for its accomplishment.
 "ment.

"In

" In the due management of the two
 " grand essentials above-mentioned, con-
 " sists the principal difference between
 " man and man, throughout all degrees
 " and ranks of life. If you want further
 " examples, every newspaper will furnish
 " you with a great variety; and those of
 " the best kind are to be found amongst
 " the advertisements.

" The pretext of a prince is gene-
 " rally too extravagant to obtain credence
 " amongst those possessed of the smallest
 " penetration; for when a potentate
 " happens to fall in love with a part of
 " a neighbouring kingdom, and wishes
 " to annex it to his own dominions, he
 " publishes a proclamation, or manifesto,
 " which is to precede hostilities, with
 " appealing to the Holy Trinity for the
 " purity of his intentions; setting forth
 " how much he wishes to avoid the effu-
 " sion of human blood; and whilst he
 " is

" is preparing the dreadful instruments
 " of death and destruction, by which the
 " object of his ambition is to be accomplished, he offers up prayers to heaven
 " to avert the dreadful calamity with
 " which he pretends his subjects are
 " threatened, in spite of all his parental
 " endeavours to preserve to them the
 " blessings of peace; when the truth is,
 " he prefers the gratification of his
 " ambition, to, perhaps, a hundred thousand
 " of his subjects lives.

" What is the true motive, concealed
 " under the feigned one exhibited in
 " the following advertisement, which has
 " appeared every week in the newspaper,
 " for some months past : "

" L. D. has discovered a sovereign
 " solvent for the stone in the bladder,
 " which he sells at seven shillings and
 " six-pence per bottle. The character
 " of

“ of this specific is such, that as soon as
 “ it is taken, it makes it's way instantly
 “ to the bladder, attaches itself to the
 “ stone, and never leaves it till it has
 “ reduced it to an impalpable powder,
 “ which will be emitted with the urine.”

“ Now if we substitute, instead of the
 “ ostensible one, the real motive, the
 “ advertisement would stand thus :

“ L. D. wishes to lay as many as possible
 “ sible under a contribution to his necessities;
 “ and the best mode which
 “ has suggested itself to him is, to offer
 “ comfort to those whose pain is so great,
 “ and condition so hopeless, that they
 “ will part with their money freely to
 “ make the experiment, though in direct
 “ contradiction to science, and to common
 “ sense.”

“ This

“ This double motive (continued the Doctor) may be traced in every trans-
 “ tion in life, and what is called excel-
 “ lence, in general, consists in so art-
 “ fully concealing the real motive, that
 “ it cannot possibly be discovered.”

This, and similar doctrines, being, perhaps, congenial to his nature, Hobart imbibed with the utmost rapture, and was highly gratified also to observe, how compleatly this original could conceal his real character, beneath an impenetrable veil of obscurity.

The Doctor's hint was the more agreeable to Hobart, as his extravagancies had almost left him penniless, and his father had been so repeatedly called on, that no farther supply could be expected from that quarter, for some time. In order, therefore, to extricate himself from his difficulties, he resolved to pay his addresses to Mrs. Parsons.

Towards

Towards her niece, indeed, though he had directed his approaches with a degree of indifference, they were attended with such success, that little more was wanting to a complete surrender, than a convenient opportunity for executing a few formal articles of capitulation; but his mind was so wholly engrossed by the charms of his theatrical mistress, that he felt himself little inclined to take advantage of his conquest.

Mrs. Parsons had, in the early part of her life, done but little in the business of love; that no time, therefore, might now be lost, she prudently declined mortifying her lover, by a long and tedious suspense, so that he had an early opportunity of declaring his sentiments; she heard, with compassion, the detail of his sufferings, and wishing not to drive him to despair, readily consented to assuage the anguish her beauty had inspired.

This

This engagement furnished him with such an influx of wealth, that he now thought himself enabled to lay siege to the favours of the little actress, with a fair prospect of success.

This lady had hitherto made a formidable stand against all his ordinary forces; but being unable any longer to resist the extraordinary weight of metal he now brought against her, after a short negotiation, having obtained very honourable terms, she prudently surrendered by capitulation.

He now, for a while, divided his time between the soft caresses of his mistress, and his amusement at the tavern, where, in spite of the Doctor's precautions, his volatile impetuosity laid him under frequent contributions to those who steadily adhered to system; but this he found of small consideration, whilst the purse of Mrs. Parsons afforded him so ample a supply.

CHAP.

C H A P. IX.

Contains some striking instances of depravity.

HOBART, having reached the summit of his wishes, for about two months, each succeeding day afforded a repetition of the pleasures of the formér, without any interruption; during which time, he imbibed many of the heterodox notions of that old sinner, Doctor Torquid; for whose opinion, on all occasions, he began to entertain the highest respect.

So much, indeed, did the business of love and amusement engage his attention, during this time, that he almost forgot the source from which he drew the means of his pleasures; and, at last, scarcely ever visited Mrs. Parsons, but when his finances began to be deranged: the

the aunt gently complained, and the tender glances of Miss Tinmore seemed to upbraid him with neglect.

So transient, however, are the pleasures of the senses, owning no kind of obedience to the will, that those things which excited the greatest rapture, in a short time will produce disgust.

Hobart's attachment to the little actress being merely sensual, was but of short duration; so that his attention being presently disengaged from other pursuits, he could no longer behold the maiden attractions and youthful bloom of Miss Tinmore with impunity; and now wished, most ardently, for a favourable occasion to demand that, which, he was well persuaded, she would be unable to refuse him.

But

But such an opportunity as was necessary to induct a novice into the mysteries of love, was not easily found, whilst she was in the same house with her aunt; nor could he take her from home, under any pretext, without exciting suspicion.

Having, however, signified his intention of making an excursion with some of the officers, which would occasion him to be absent a few days; a short time before the day appointed, Hobart learnt privately, that Mrs. Parsons, in company with her brother, had chosen the interval of his absence, to visit her mother, for the last time previous to her departure for Jamaica; that the place of the old lady's residence, was not less than forty miles distant; and that they would be absent at least three or four days.

Hobart received this information with the utmost rapture, and instantly excused
 G himself

himself from his engagement, easily foreseeing, that without the least interruption, he should enjoy the felicity of conducting the trembling Miss Timmore, through every stage of her noviciate, to the temple of fruition.

All this succeeded to the full extent of his wishes; Mrs. Parsons returned; he assigned a satisfactory reason for having declined his excursion, rallied her on the secrecy she had observed with respect to her own journey, and not the smallest suspicion was entertained of the important business which had engaged the attention of Hobart and his juvenile mistress.

The time of Mrs. Parsons's departure for Jamaica now approached, and she had actually made overtures to our adventurer, to quit the army, and accompany her thither; but the following unforeseen accident

accident totally broke off the connexion, and induced her to leave New York sooner than she had intended.

Through the incontinency of Hobart's little theatrical impure, who could never resist the temptation of gold, a certain complaint had been communicated both to Mrs. Parsons, and her niece. The young lady had, for some days, laboured under an unusual degree of it's severity; at last, some suspicion arising in the mind of the aunt, she was determined to enter into a thorough investigation, and finally, by threats and intimidation, intermixed with promises of pardon on confession, extorted an ample detail of the whole intrigue.

Fired with rage and jealousy, and vexed at finding herself in the same predicament, she betook herself to her closet, to seek the friendly auxiliary of a

certain cordial, to which she frequently had recourse to support her spirits under any slight depression, fully determined, as he was expected that evening, to take ample vengeance, with her own hands, on the person of her perfidious spark.

The means, however, she had used to fortify herself against the hour he was expected, had nearly counteracted her purpose; for when his arrival was announced, her legs tottered under their unwieldy load, and nothing but her desire of revenge enabled her to preserve a tolerable equipoise, till she reached the apartment in which her gallant attended her. All reserve and caution being now absorbed by rage and jealousy, she flew at him like a fury, seized him by the hair with both hands, and then falling, her weight brought him with her to the floor, with such an irresistible velocity, that the collision made the blood issue from his nose in great abundance. Without

Without ever quitting her masculine grasp, she held him secure with one hand, whilst she clawed his face with the nails of the other, till she was nearly exhausted, and then began to bellow murder! with such force, that, in a few seconds, it brought to the scene of action, all the people in the house.

By this time, the violent perturbation of her spirits, and these extraordinary exertions, had called into action the exhilarating fluid she had swallowed so plentifully, which now refusing any longer to submit to incarceration, sallied forth, accompanied by a mucilaginous abundance; and, in this moment of exanimation, nature found means to afford her infinite relief, in another direction; so that when the company entered the apartment, their olfactory organs were formidably assailed by an unsavoury compound effluvia, and they beheld our

adventurer, with his fair Helen, bleeding on the floor.

Besides Mr. Parsons, Doctor Torquid, and the servants, amongst those who entered the apartment, on hearing the cry of murder, were two American officers, and a young lady on a visit to Miss Tinmore.

Nothing could equal their astonishment, at this extraordinary scene. Poor Parsons, on seeing his lovely yoke-fellow all bloody on the floor, shewed all the tenderness of an affectionate husband, and would readily have resigned half his estate to have preserved her life. All the rest, Doctor Torquid indeed excepted, were utterly amazed, and knew not what construction to put on the scene before them.

Having, at last, with some assistance, disengaged her fingers from his hair,
Hobart

Hobart arose; and, as the tenderness of her sex commanded the attention of the whole company, for a moment, to his fair combatant, taking advantage of this interval, he withdrew, without waiting for an explanation, and hastily betook himself to his own lodgings.

The effectual efforts of nature, and the assistance which was instantly afforded her, soon happily relieved Mrs. Parsons from a fainting fit, which had succeeded the violent ebullition of her spirits, to the great joy and heartfelt satisfaction of her almost disconsolate husband.

The company now perceiving there was no great reason to be alarmed for her safety, and that the blood which had been spilt so plentifully on her clothes, and on the floor, could be no part of the pure fluid which circulated in her feminine system, thought proper, through

motives

motives of delicacy, and a regard due to their own sensations, to withdraw before she was moved from the carpet, leaving her to the care of a tender husband, and several female domestics, but not before she had openly charged the miscreant, who had just decamped, with having reduced her to that extremity, in a violent attempt upon her chastity.

Subjects so singular as the above, seldom remain long in secrecy. The very day following, this atrocious attempt of a young officer on the person of a married lady, was the general topic of conversation in many genteel companies. All the chaste dames of forty inveighed bitterly against the daring assurance of libertines; lamented the feebleness of their own sex to resist their brutal attempts; and applauded this singular instance of heroic virtue.

In the circles where the parties were known, the gentlemen laughed immoderately; the young ladies tittered; and whilst they expressed their sorrow at the depravity of a young gentleman, otherwise so amiably accomplished, they could not help remarking to each other, their astonishment at what he could find so extremely captivating in a person of the age and figure of Mrs. Parsons.

Whilst this circumstance afforded a subject for public ridicule, satire, and astonishment, the discomfited gallant was obliged to submit to a close confinement in his apartment; for besides two terrible black eyes, occasioned by the violence with which she had brought his head in contact with the floor, she had torn his face so shockingly, with her nails, that a painful inflammation ensued.

Submitting patiently, however, to the rigour of his fate, he took advantage
G 5 of

of his present confinement, to submit to a medical regimen, which was now become highly necessary, to appease the violence of a certain malady, which had brought him into so disagreeable a predicament.

Mrs. Parsons, finding that this unfortunate disaster had become a subject of universal ridicule, and that slander had given it a turn not very much to the advantage of her reputation, wished hastily to quit a place so much abounding in scandal; having, therefore, hastily made the necessary preparations, in about three weeks after the above disagreeable conflict, she sailed, with her husband and niece, for Jamaica.

Hobart's complaint proving somewhat stubborn, he was obliged to keep his room for several weeks, during which time, he had few visitors, except Doctor Torquid,

Torquid, who charitably dedicated several hours, every day, to his company; and humourously detailed to him an epitome of the public opinion, respecting the abominable crime with which he stood charged by Mrs. Parsons.

The doctor having, one morning, related a curious circumstance which occurred to him in his youth, it so excited the curiosity of the convalescent, that he earnestly wished to be entertained with a short sketch of the early part of the Doctor's life. In vain was he told, that being the son of a very poor man, living in the most remote obscurity, his infancy was totally barren of events. He urged his intreaty with so much solicitude, that the Doctor promised, the next morning, to dedicate an hour to his satisfaction.

As this short narrative had certainly some influence on the future conduct of the unfortunate youth, who is the subject of this publication, we have thought proper to subjoin it, in the words of Hobart himself; not doubting, but, as this extraordinary character was well known to many British officers on that service, it may afford some entertainment to the reader.

CHAP. X.

*A short sketch of the early part of the life of
Doctor Torquid.*

I WAS born at B——, in Westmoreland, and, as existence was imposed on me, without my own consent, I had no choice in the parents who gave me birth; for surely, if, as according to the opinion of some, the soul have a pre-existence, and is possessed of infinite knowledge, mine would have made choice of opulent parents, as a medium to humanity, by whose means I might have been indulged, and educated.

Leaving this, however, to the decision of the learned, I found myself, as soon as I was able to reflect, the son of a poor man, who had been a day-labourer,
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but was now borne down by poverty, crippled in every limb by the rheumatism, resident in an alms-house, and, as if it were intended to mock his misery, my father's name was Rich.

He received from the parish two shillings a week, for the maintenance of himself and me: my mother, whose maiden name was Torquid, I understood had been taken off by a fever, before I was nine months old. My father was relieved from his worldly torments, before I had reached my fifth year, when I was transferred to the luxurious table of the work-house. Luxurious, indeed, compared to my father's, where potatoes and rye-bread were it's general service, and a sheep's pluck it's greatest luxury.

Here I tasted all the sweets of a work-house discipline, 'till I was more than eight years of age, and then was bound
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an apprentice to a farmer, who was obliged, by the custom of the parish, to take one from the work-house.

On my arrival at the house of my new master, my pious mistress, after making many remarks on my person, much to my disadvantage, damned that law which obliged honest people to maintain lousy beggar's brats from the work-house; observing, it was a pity such trash were not prevented from being creatures they were not able to maintain.

My first employment was to frighten the birds from the corn fields, with a wooden rattle; from that I was advanced to the charge of conducting horses, from the lime-kiln to the fields; soon after to the more important one of driving oxen before the plough; when, by the instruction of my young master, I soon acquired that

that song, or recitative, used on those occasions, to great perfection.

My master's name was Druce; he had but one son, who was about three years older than me; and one daughter, about two years younger than her brother: she seemed to be the very model of her mother, both in person and disposition, and took a very active part with her, in ill-treating and abusing me.

My young master was of a different temper; he was very friendly; for being older than me, he had an opportunity of shewing his superior strength. He would frequently lift a bag of corn, then desire me to try, when finding I could not move it, it would afford him an abundance of mirth.

As he was very fond of wrestling, he would frequently desire me to try a fall with

with him, promising not to hurt me, when he was sure to lay me on my back, at which he would laugh heartily.

Again, at the church door on a Sunday, where it was customary with the young farmers to converse for a considerable time after the service had commenced, my presence was necessary, not only to bear testimony to details of his corporeal exertions, proofs of which he was sure to relate to his competitors, but to repeat myself many of his exploits, which I performed with such enthusiasm, as was highly gratifying to my patron.

Indeed, I felt the importance of the subject; for at that time I wished for no greater felicity, than to be as completely accomplished as young farmer Druce. He was the best wrestler in the parish; could reap, sow, plough, or mow, with any

any man in the county; was generally the best at a sheep-shearing; and no one had yet dared to call him a fool, and prove him so; for they, as nations prove their justice, establish their mental superiority by their strength.

I became, at last, so great a favourite with young Druce, that, through his interference, I was better treated by his mother and sister. Stimulated by his example, I endeavoured to copy him in every thing, improving daily in athletic exercises, till I had reached my seventeenth year, when an event occurred, which was the cause of my leaving that part of the country.

A company of strolling players coming into the neighbourhood, hired a barn of my master, to be converted into a temporary theatre; and I was engaged, during their stay, to assist in shifting the scenes,

scenes, snuffing the candles, or in any other department, in which I could make myself useful.

I was so fascinated with their manner of living, that, on their departure, I formed the design of following them. A quarrel with my mistress soon furnished a pretext. Having first insinuated in the neighbourhood that I intended to go to sea, the better to avoid pursuit, I sat out, and reached the company at a little town about thirty miles distant, when I was instantly engaged by Mr. Numadin, the manager.

I now, for the first time, began seriously to reflect : I found that those people, so far from esteeming the athletic acquisitions, which I had been induced to admire, considered them only as the contemptible characteristics of the vulgar. I could lift, or carry a greater weight

weight than any of them, but they seemed to hold my services in no higher estimation than my late master had done the muscular exertions of one of his horses.

I observed they seemed to admire mental improvement only. Naturally, stimulated to emulation, I now first felt, to my great mortification, that irreparable deficiency, the want of education. For my resolution and industry could avail me nothing, since my situation would not allow me sufficient opportunity to surmount the tedious access to an ordinary acquaintance with letters.

With an unbounded curiosity, led into society under such disadvantages, I was of course silent and passive; but I soon began to profit by observation and reflection. I have been thought stupid and inattentive, while I have been regarding

garding less what was said, than the motive of the speaker.

This curiosity served to instruct me in the art of useful dissimulation: my present situation also presented so great a contrast to my former, that every hour almost furnished me a fresh subject for an *animadversion*.

I began to examine why many of the comedians, highly respectable in the performance of their characters on the stage, dwindled into insignificance in private company; and soon discovered, it was for want of adhering to method, and stage trick. Off the stage, I perceived they were actuated by capricious whims and the impulse of the moment, without system, and therefore were incapable of securing to themselves favour and respect.

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I took notice that Mr. Numadin, the manager, by his haughty and impetuous conduct, incurred the contempt of almost every one, when by adopting one of those characters of humility, which he represented so charmingly on the stage, he might have secured to himself comfort, and have glided through life esteemed and respected.

Some men erroneously affirm, that we cannot appear to be what we are not; it is however certain, there is nothing wanting to succeed, but to join, to the talent of a comedian, system and proper discrimination.

To exercise myself in this profession, I first endeavoured to govern my countenance by my will, and carefully to conceal the objects of my attention. I have some times acquired, by carefully observing the action of the features, that information which I could no other way have obtained.

Neces-

Necessity soon obliged me to call my talent into use; for, after having been unsuccessful at two or three little towns, the company was so reduced, that distress and famine seemed to have nearly overtaken them. I saw the approaching calamity, and began to consider, how I should escape the dreadful consequence of a general wreck.

As I attended Mr. Numadin every morning to clean his shoes, brush his clothes, &c. I frequently found at his lodgings, two or three pious neighbours, called methodists, at prayer, with the mistress of the house and her mother; for the master, according to their account, had not yet received his call.

Having been invited, I joined their holy devotions, merely, at first, to exercise my countenance, and gratify my curiosity; but now that I almost wanted bread,

bread, I resolved to endeavour to turn it to my advantage.

To that purpose, one morning, in this religious assembly, having, by a peculiar command of the muscles of my face, rendered my features expressive of the most fervent devotion, and fixed my eyes stedfastly on an object in the ceiling, I pronounced the following words, just loud enough to be heard: "O Lord, deliver me from the hands of the servants of Satan, lest I be corrupted. A morsel of bread, with thine elect, is better than a luxurious feast with the wicked." This brought on me the attention of the society; when turning, as if surprized at being over-heard, I manifested the utmost confusion, applied my handkerchief to my eyes, and withdrew, apparently much confounded, but with a view of giving them an opportunity of taking into consideration my situation and

and conduct. This succeeded according to my wishes; for the very next morning I was recommended to Mr. Tomins, an elderly preacher, who was going into Kent, to take upon him the care of a society which death had lately deprived of it's pastor.

In a few days, we arrived at the place of destination, and, in about a fortnight, were followed by my master's wife and daughter. We occupied a clean little house, and as they kept no maid-servant, the principal part of my employment was to assist my mistress and her daughter, in the most laborious part of culinary, and other domestic services.

With these people I conducted myself with the utmost circumspection. I soon found they had an annuity of thirty pounds, besides the salary allowed by the society. I was, at first, at a loss,

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whether

whether to consider Mr. Tomins as a subtle hypocrite, or an enthusiast; one or the other I was sure he must be, for the principles of his doctrine were ridiculously absurd.

It was not long, however, before I had sufficient reason to decide in favour of the latter; for, having had with me so excellent a character, and observing the perfect indifference with which I seemed to regard every thing, he communicated his sentiments to his wife and daughter, on the most delicate subjects, without seeming to consider my presence of any more importance than though I had been inanimate: thus I informed myself of his enthusiasm, by his frequently mentioning the effects of the operation of the spirit of grace within him.

My mistress was a very peaceable sort of a woman, and seemed to pay as little

little regard to the things of this world, as to her husband's anticipations respecting the concerns of the world to come; indeed she attended the meeting regularly, and always heard his sage lectures with becoming decency, without seeming however to be much affected by them: but the truth was, she so continually assisted the feebleness of the flesh with a draught of that grateful fluid which the French called *eau-de-vie*, that she seemed always to labour under what physicians call a *somnolentia continua*, or rather, that state which is neither sleeping nor being perfectly awake.

Miss Tomins was about twenty four years of age, a good figure, and, though not a beauty, her embonpoint made her very agreeable. She had adopted an abundance of puritanical affectation, but through all this I thought I discovered, the first time I saw her, some very laci-

vious traits in her countenance, and was of an opinion, that nothing less than the potency of an inward spiritual grace, could support her, in suppressing the demands of nature.

My principal employment being in the kitchen, I was, during the greatest part of the day, near my young mistress, and executing her orders. I soon had reason to believe that my knowledge in physiognomy had not deceived me, and was even inclined to think she had conceived no unfavourable opinion of me.

Under this idea, I began to consider how I should conduct myself; for, though I must confess there were sufficient attractions in the person of Miss Tomins, I had determined to conduct myself according to a system which should be the result of cold and wary deliberation, as I had remarked, that the principal disappointments

pointments and vexations of life, were the consequences of having given way to the impulse of the moment, allowing no time for consideration.

I could not believe but, by a little arrangement, it was even possible to cull the sweets of vice and dissipation, and to avoid all their dangers. Deliberating within myself, I found, that to act upon the defensive would greatly try the strength of my resolution. Directing my thoughts into futurity, I stumbled upon matrimony; at this my inclination revolted; for I considered myself destined to fill a more important character in life, than could be consistent with such an engagement.

What, said I, reasoning with myself, shall I then, by an illicit-indulgence, involve this peaceable family in public shame and distress, and escape the

trammels of matrimony by a precipitate flight? No.—

But what could induce Miss Tomins to take a liking to me? Could it be from any thing but the warmth of her own amorous constitution? I have continually worn, in her presence, a countenance expressive of the most pious mortification, which is by no means calculated to excite desire. The conclusion then must be, that she being arrived at that age when the demands of nature are powerful, and having no opportunity of intercourse with other young men, has, by a kind of necessity, been obliged to fix her attention on me, for which I am by no means obliged to her.

These considerations, added to the opportunity I now had of trying the strength of my own resolution, and to gratify my curiosity by observation, deter-

determined me to continue the character of pious insensibility which I had adopted, and to appear insensible to all the little overtures she might make, fully resolved that, should it end in her ruin, she should owe it intirely to her own direct approaches.

Hitherto I had acted my part so well, that I was considered as a wonder of piety, not only by Mr. Tomins, but by a great number of the society, who affirmed, that no efforts of my own could have produced such an instance of virtue. I had never neglected to attend the meeting, except detained by a particular order from my young mistress, when I was sure to manifest great mortification.

I was considered in the house rather as one of the family, than a servant; for such was my humility and attention, that I not only anticipated their wants,

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but

but frequently offered my services in matters, which my young mistress, in point of delicacy, was obliged to refuse in presence of her father, at which the old gentleman would smile, and attribute it to my native simplicity.

Thus, when Miss Tomins was dressing, or making arrangements in her own apartment, she would often call me from her father to assist her, when I was sure to find her in a state best calculated to display her charms to the greatest advantage; and so far was the old gentleman from suspecting my prudence, that he frequently sent me to her chamber for a key, or some other trifle, whilst she was in bed.

At all these attractions, though they were almost irresistible, I never unbent the pious disposition of my features. Finding this insufficient to excite in me the

the smallest symptom of sensibility, she not only made me assist her to dress and undress, but occasionally threw the whole of that business on me; and one day, while I was thus employed, observing some small emotion, she, with a wanton smile, demanded what I trembled at. I was relieved, however, from a reply, by the arrival of her father.

After this, she had recourse to a thousand indirect schemes, but finding them all ineffectual, she at last threw aside disguise, endeavoured to reconcile my religious scruples, and succeeded finally by unequivocal solicitation.

The consequence was, as may be naturally expected, she soon became pregnant; and when the time approached that the effects of our conduct could be no longer concealed, complaint on her side, and disgust on mine, rendered my

situation rather disagreeable. Finding myself now, by no means inclined to be present at so disagreeable an *ecclaireissement*, I arose one morning very early, and set off for London.

I reached the metropolis late in the evening of the next day; when the pleasing ideas I had formed of it, on the road, were dissipated, for it appeared a scene of wild confusion. Having procured lodging at a small public house, near St. Margaret's Hill, I sallied forth early in the morning, full of expectation, to enquire for some employment, and had soon reason to believe, that amidst such an abundance of riches and luxury, a man, without money, was as likely to perish, as though he had been in the desarts of America.

I wandered as far as Charing Cross, viewing the busy scene with wonder, before

before I recollected I was in search of a place. I sat down in one of the niches of Northumberland House and meditated, but could not conceive where or to whom I should apply.

I remarked the objects as they passed. Some wore the countenance of business and care; others, that of anxiety and disappointment; now, a self-sufficient thing would strut by, adjusting his ruffles, diffusing the rich fragrance of his perfume to all within his little atmosphere, regarding nothing but his mighty self; then, an aged porter, sweating under a load of rich wine, for the luxury of a great man's table; presently, two tottering chairmen, convulsively uttering "By your leave, Sir," lugging along a sedan-chair, in which a great, clumsy, muscular fellow, sat at his ease, regardless of their sufferings, though one of the poor fellows,

fellows, labouring under an asthma, groaned most piteously.

Within a few yards of me sat a blind man, with the crown of an old hat upon his knees, praying God to preserve the eye-sight of every one as they passed. It was some time before I observed any body take notice of him; at last, an elderly gentleman dropt a penny into his hat, at which he exclaimed, "God "Almighty bless your eye-sight;" but putting his hand into the hat, he said to a woman who sat near him, "Bl—st "his eyes, they are both bad."

This fixed my whole attention, at once, on the old man. Then all you mean, thought I, by God bless your eye-sight, is, put some money into the hat.

Observing

Observing a number of people, with melancholy aspects, reading some bills which were stuck in a window nearly opposite, I asked the blind man if he could tell me what attracted the curiosity of so many people at the opposite window; "Yes, (said he) it is an office for hiring servants." "Ah! and do the notes describe the sort of servants wanting?" "Yes," (replied he.) I instantly ran across the street, and, at my request, a young man, who stood at the window, read a number of the bills, wherein many most desirable places were described, few qualifications required in the servants, and their having but just come from the country, was considered as no objection.

Amongst the rest, was wanting a young man, to accompany a gentleman about to make the tour of Europe, in which it was said, that none but a person
from

from the country need apply. At this, I eagerly stepped into the shop, when an old gentleman very civilly demanded my business; I told him I wanted a place; he, smiling, regarded me with a good-natured air, and said he could find a number of excellent places for a young man of my appearance and qualifications; it was those only, who had a natural awkwardness, with whom he had some difficulty. I then asked, with some eagerness, if the young gentleman, who was going to make the tour of Europe, had yet got a servant. He recollected himself for a few seconds, and then said, "No, no young man, you are exceedingly lucky; there was a person applied this morning, but was not engaged; please to deposit two shillings, and come to-morrow, about eleven o'clock, when I will give you a direction to the gentleman."

I quitted

I quitted him, fully persuaded he was a very good tempered, sensible man, for I was not proof against flattery. Having attended the next day, at the appointed hour, I was ordered into an apartment, where I found a number of both sexes assembled on the same business. The old gentleman, of whom I had formed so good an opinion, entered the room several times, but took no particular notice of me; at last, I spoke to him about the young gentleman going on his travels; he told me very shortly, that the gentleman had engaged a servant himself; that there were many who had waited a long time, and I must have patience till he could find some employment for me.

Three or four days after, he said he could procure me a place at a grocer's, who wanted a porter; "to be sure (said he) the work is rather laborious, and
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“the wages low, but just raw from the
 “country, and quite uncultivated, you
 “cannot expect any-thing better.” I
 took the direction, and quitted him, very
 well satisfied, that, as the blind man
 meant, by God preserve your eye-sight,
 put some money into the hat, he, by
 his advertisements in the window, meant
 no more than, come in and give me two
 shillings.

I went, however, as directed, but
 found the grocer kept a small chandler’s
 shop, and retailed coals, for the purpose
 of measuring and carrying out which,
 he had applied for a servant. To this
 drudgery I could not reconcile myself,
 though I was now destitute of a penny.

Necessity, at last, procured me employment ; for my landlord, having given
 me credit for five shillings, and perceiving
 the debt likely to accumulate, with-
 out

out any apparent means of liquidation, found it his interest to make some enquiry. Having called at a public house, in the neighbourhood of Fleet Market, where he had heard a waiter was wanting, he recommended me in such high terms, that he returned fully empowered to engage me.

On his arrival, he acquainted me with his success, and, in order to prevent a negative on my part, hinted that I could expect no further credit, observing, at the same time, he wished by no means to influence me, but had taken the trouble purely to serve me.

I clearly perceived, however, that he, like the blind man, meant a thing quite different from that which he expressed; for he neither regarded my interest, nor that of my employer; he had nothing in view but to secure the
five

five shillings, for which he had given me credit.

Perceiving there was no alternative, I accepted this engagement, though I by no means relished the idea of drawing porter, and collecting pots.

I had not filled this department long, before I began to discover, that dissimulation pervaded all ranks of men, and that flattery was a most important ingredient, but that few possessed powers of applying it with sufficient address. My new master dealt it out, to all his customers, with great profusion; and I observed, that even those who perceived his motive, were far from being offended.

Wishing to make myself master of that which every one appeared to be so pleased with, and remembering its effect
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on myself, I began with my master, as soon as we were sufficiently familiar, by observing to him, that he had a happy mode of conciliating the favour of his customers.

I presently experienced the wonderful efficacy of a few hints of this sort ; for he discharged, in my favour, a servant who waited in an upper room, kept solely for the accommodation of a few genteel gamblers.

Feeling the advantage of my *coup d'essai*, in this new character, I began to examine its principles. I found dissimulation so prevalent, that men frequently used it, without being conscious of it themselves, except induced by curiosity, to stop short and examine their real motives ; but that flattery was by no means so common, and the few instances I had remarked, seemed to exhibit a mechanical

mechanical sameness, neither modified to the peculiar temper of the person, nor admitting of a sufficient variety, to be accommodated to time, place, and circumstance.

It appeared a thing perfectly innocent in itself, though, like all other good things, subject to abuse; procuring friends to the distributor, and affording pleasure to all those on whom it is bestowed; moreover, so inexhaustible in its nature, that though diffused with the hand of prodigality, the stock would suffer not the smallest diminution.

By the help of this all-pleasing charm, I soon procured the reputation of a sensible, good-natured young fellow, not only in the house, but amongst the gentlemen on whom I had the honour to attend.

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Nor was this all, for a waiter being wanted at one of the most genteel gaming houses in the neighbourhood of St. James's, some of the gentlemen used their interest so effectually in my favour, that I was honoured with the appointment.

I had now to encounter some difficulty, for though a liberal subscription amongst the gentlemen, on quitting my last place, had enabled me to equip myself in point of dress, &c. I wanted practice, to move with ease, in an elevated circle.

The grandeur and elegance of the apartments, the presence of my lord and his grace, and the splendor of equipage, formed a novel combination, which, in spite of my reason, threw me into some embarrassment.

This

This gave a first impression, much to my disadvantage; but my confidence returning by degrees, I found means to give satisfaction, and continued in this place more than three months.

During this time, I had frequently been engaged in delivering messages, and in performing some other menial services, for a Mr. Philpo, a young gentleman who constantly visited our house, for which I had been always rewarded with a profusion of generosity. This gentleman being now in want of a servant, offered me terms so advantageous, that I found it my interest to accept them.

It was not in point of emolument only, that I felt myself pleased with my new situation; I hoped for much improvement, by attending a young gentleman who possessed such transcendent abilities. He had been but a short time from

from one of the universities, his talents had been spoken of with great respect, and, as a speaker, I never then had heard his equal.

All these, and many other admirable qualities, I soon perceived were of very little value to a man, if prudence was not of the number. His father, I learnt, had died a little more than two years before, leaving him a clear estate of about two thousand a year, which was now very much encumbered. Before I had been with him seven months, he had sold all his estates, and was some hundred pounds *minus*.

Mr. Philpo was an only child, and his mother, who resided in Oxfordshire, being acquainted with his distressed circumstances, came to town, and took up her residence with him, purposely to support him; for besides her dower, she

she had in her widowhood a very handsome income left her by a distant relation. She possessed all the tenderness of a mother, but was a woman of good sense, and refused to furnish her son with any more money than was actually necessary to a gentleman, whose expences were within the bounds of moderation, taking care herself to discharge the incumbrances of his household.

Soon after Mrs. Philpo's arrival, I perceived she regarded me with an eye of suspicion. This arose from a notion she entertained, that I had been instrumental in the dissipation of her son's fortune. I soon, however, found means to make her alter her opinion.

Young Philpo now suggested a scheme to obtain money from his mother, in which I was to be the principal agent.

“ Rich

" Rich, (said he one morning) I must
 " have more money; it is in vain to point
 " out the absurdity of my conduct; it is,
 " also, impossible to persuade me to
 " wear the shackles of œconomy; all the
 " powers of oratory cannot give me a
 " clearer conviction of the deformity
 " of my conduct, than I already possess.
 " I like not to reflect on my own affairs:
 " I consider moral philosophy only
 " as a matter of amusement, and abo-
 " minate it's application to practice;
 " go therefore to my different creditors,
 " order them to make a surcharge on
 " their respective bills, and as these
 " will readily be paid by my mother,
 " the surplus will furnish me with a
 " considerable sum; the management
 " of this business I shall leave to thee,
 " but be sure to use the utmost dispatch."

I was really so much attached to Mr.
 Philpo, that I never used towards him

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the least disguise. I had often freely reasoned with him upon the impropriety of his conduct, when he always heard me with good humour and attention, and, whenever they deserved it, would candidly acknowledge the weight of my observations; indeed, with such a man, hypocrisy was useless. I might have enriched myself, at his expence, without the possibility of detection. But who could take advantage of a man who was profusely generous, and totally destitute of suspicion?

He was endowed with a clear conception, master of an excellent choice of words, his articulation was pleasing and distinct, his voice agreeably harmonious; he possessed an inexhaustible fund of eloquence, and was blessed with a graceful and an expressive countenance; so that his conversation was replete with instruction and his arguments fascinated, while

while they carried with them the force of conviction. He was capable of imparting to others the most wholesome advice, but unable himself to adopt one prudent maxim. Though very impatient under pain or disappointment, no man could better recommend philosophical firmness; he readily advised others to prudence and oeconomy, to the practice of which he was a total stranger; in short, he possessed every qualification to make himself useful and agreeable to others, but wanted that which could render his abilities of any advantage to himself.

This money was soon spent, and all surreptitious means of obtaining more put a stop to. He now suffered such mortification, as I thought sufficient to have stung his very soul; but I soon perceived he relaxed in point of punctilio, in proportion as he

became more necessitous; he was also less punctual in discharging his debts of honour, though he was not less imprudent in contracting them. With the means of supporting his extravagance, he seemed to have lost every sentiment of honour and honesty; he tamely suffered himself to be treated with contempt, by the vilest swindler, at an inferior gaming-house; he contracted debts wherever he could obtain credit; he even sold his clothes, and appeared shabby, to procure the means of gaming and dissipation, and patiently bore the appellations of scoundrel, cheat, and poltroon. Thus was a genteel young man, possessed of first-rate abilities, lost to himself and to society, for want of little common prudence.

Just at this time, Mrs. Philpo was taken off, suddenly, by a fever; so that he again became possessed of a genteel independence.

independency, without any restrictions whatever. I now laboured, with all the powers I was master of, to paint to him the folly of his past conduct; exhibiting, in lively colours, the pleasing prospect he had in view, if he suffered himself to be governed by prudence, and endeavoured to figure to him, the misery and despair which otherwise would inevitably overtake him.

He heard me with the greatest attention, and when I had done speaking exclaimed, "By G—d, Rich, well spoken; you want but a little method "to make an excellent orator."

Observing the inefficacy of every argument, I perceived that, like a fop, who, regardless of his intellects, attends only to the exterior ornaments of his person, this young gentleman took no

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notice of the truths which were offered him, considering only the language and mode by which they were conveyed.

He now launched forth into all his former excesses. Gaming, and the gratification of sensual pleasures, were reducing him rapidly to that ruin which was inevitable. I foresaw the approaching evil, and wished not to witness its arrival; but was disappointed in my calculation; for, in about six months after his mother's death, an execution came into the house, and all the furniture was sold. His estate was first mortgaged, and finally transferred to the mortgagees, for the sake of a little ready money.

A short time after, he was arrested, and I, not supposing his affairs quite so desperate, advanced every shilling I possessed, amounting to eighteen guineas and

and a half, to procure his liberation; this being settled, and the officer, as we thought, about to take his departure, he took from his packet another writ, for the sum of ninety-four pounds. Thus I saw, in an instant, all the property I possessed irretrievably lost; and the young gentleman, having no means of procuring his liberation, was, in a few days, conducted to the Fleet Prison.

Being greatly distressed, I called on him, and acquainted him with my necessities, when he gave me a letter, addressed to a lady in Westminster, from whom, he said, he had some expectations, which would enable him to give me the money I had advanced. I attended three succeeding days, but did not find the lady at home, and began now to be very uneasy, as I had boarded at a public-house, on credit, and had not a shilling left.

In a day or two I found Mr. Philpo very well reconciled to his situation, and amusing himself at cards, with a gentleman in the coffee-room. I saw there also, an attorney, who had done most of his business, with whom I was on very familiar terms; I beckoned him aside, and enquired what brought him there; he told me he had just paid Mr. Philpo forty pounds, it being the balance for an estate, sold some time before. This put me in high spirits; I waited till the cards were dismissed, and then, having observed that he had pocketed near two guineas, requested he would advance me a small sum. He said, with a countenance expressive of much concern, he could not then give me any, as he had but a few shillings more than what he had won in my presence, and that, as the gentleman was to come the next day to take his revenge, the want of a few shillings

shillings might prevent him from winning a considerable sum.

Never did I sink so much in my own estimation, as at this moment; I saw instantly that, charmed by the brilliancy of his eloquence, I had considerably overrated his merit; and that, suffering my discrimination to be lulled asleep, I was very deservedly duped in the grossest manner. In fact, I clearly perceived, that the tinsel of oratory, with a little familiar condescension, had proved as completely intoxicating to me, as flattery itself.

From this instant I bid adieu to sincerity in public, with all mankind, and have since found but few, whom I have conceived worthy of being entrusted with it even in private.

Stung to the quick by this glaring instance of duplicity, I racked my invention to devise some means, by which I might get my money out of his hands. A scheme instantly presented itself to my mind, and accordingly, without betraying the least emotion, "How unfortunate (said I) to be without money! I could easily procure you twenty guineas, by the use of forty for a few hours." "Ah! (cried he eagerly) by what means?" "Why Mr. Lunal said, this morning, he was empowered to give sixty guineas for your chariot and harness, which you know the coachmaker detains for a bill of forty pounds only. He told me that the money should be paid in a moment, on delivery."

This had the desired effect, for he ordered me to call early in the morning, when he would furnish me with the sum wanted.

After

After I left the prison, I posted away to Westminster, in hopes of finding the lady at home in the evening, as I had been hitherto unsuccessful in the forenoon, fully resolved that the next day should terminate my attendance on Mr. Philpo.

On my arrival, I was lucky enough to hear that she was within, and was desired to walk up stairs; but how great was my surprize, on entering the apartment, to behold, in the person of the lady to whom the letter was addressed, no other than the pious Miss Tomins herself. I knew her instantly; she arose to receive me, and I had delivered the letter into her hand, before she noticed me; then viewing me for a moment, she shrieked, and fell back on her chair.

Having a little recovered from her first surprize, she ordered the servant to
I 6
withdraw,

withdraw, and then began to reproach me most bitterly. I sustained patiently the first effusions of her indignation, the violence of which beginning to abate, tears came to her relief, when reproaches dwindled into complaints, and those, by degrees, became mingled with so much tenderness, that I soon perceived my pardon might be obtained at an easy rate.

A few compassionate expressions presently effected a reconciliation. She then acquainted me with the history of her sufferings on my account, which were briefly, that soon after my departure her father, to his great grief, became acquainted with her situation, and, to avoid shame, sent her to her uncle's, in Dorsetshire, where, some months after, she was delivered of a son, of whom her uncle and aunt, having no child of their own, became so fond, that they engaged to adopt him.

Being

Being thus at liberty, and finding her dear little baby provided for, she reluctantly took a place to return to her parents, very unfortunately in the same coach with Mr. Philpo, who made use of many arts to seduce her, which he did not effect at last, but by means of the vilest stratagem.

After a few remarks on my part, and another effusion of tears, she continued, that young Philpo, having brought her to London, had, after some time, abandoned her; that then her situation became dreadful, for she could not think of returning to her parents.

Very fortunately, however, a young linen draper, who had made some infellectual overtures while she was under the protection of Mr. Philpo, kindly offered her his support: his views were, nevertheless, very honourable, as
he

he waited only for an establishment, which his father had promised him, when he would immediately make her his wife.

She now opened Mr. Philpo's letter, which was couched in very tender expressions, and concluded with pressinglly inviting her to visit him in his retirement.

After a scene of exquisite hypocrisy, I took my leave, promising to visit her again the next day, but with a full determination to go there no more; having no kind of inclination to become a rival to the young linen-draper, whose views were so perfectly honourable.

The following morning I went to the Fleet Prison, and having obtained the forty guineas, for the purpose of redeeming the chariot, and some linen
to

to be washed, I felt not the least scruple in appropriating the whole to my own use.

Thinking it now most advisable to quit London, I tied up the few articles I possessed, in a handkerchief, and having got on the top of one of the Bath coaches, arrived safe in that city early the next morning.

Here I took up my residence at a small public house, frequented principally by gentlemen's servants, assuming the name of Jones. I had, at first, some hopes of getting a waiter's place, at one of the Rooms; but soon found I wanted a sufficient recommendation.

Here I remained for more than two months, without any prospect of such an engagement as I wished. I was well respected by the servants who frequented
the

the house, and had the refusal of several inferior places, in gentlemen's service; but at first I aspired to something of greater importance. Seeing, however, my cash considerably diminished, I perceived my error; and, after some consideration, thought it an object of little consequence what department I filled, so that it was in an opulent family, and I could have access to the principal, as promotion must chiefly depend on my own conduct.

At last I was lucky enough to get the place of footman to Sir William M—, through the recommendation of his butler. I found Sir William extremely particular in the choice of his servants; and, at the time of my engagement, after I had answered many interrogatories, he finally charged me never to be dishonest, nor guilty of deceit; telling me, that he allowed his servants greater indulgencies than

than any gentleman in the kingdom; and pardoned frequently the most glaring improprieties, while they told the truth, and attempted not to deceive; but that, at the smallest instance of dishonesty, or disguise, he became their most implacable enemy.

A few days after my engagement, we went to his country seat, below Exeter, a most charming situation, in sight of the sea.

I now soon perceived I should stand but little chance of promotion in Sir William's service, for he was a man of few words, and so much on the reserve, that, for the first six weeks, I had never been permitted to speak five words in his presence; even when I delivered him a message, if I were not extremely brief, he would anticipate a part, and dismiss me before I had done.

Sir

Sir William was about sixty years of age; his lady somewhat older: they had been married many years, but never had any children. Although they were generally under the same roof, they never associated, but kept their separate apartments, and dined at different tables, except they saw company, when all the externals of the most cordial familiarity were affected on both sides.

Though Sir William was greatly on the reserve with the rest of the servants, he consulted the butler on all occasions, and entrusted him with the principal management of domestic matters. The attachment of Sir William to this man appeared to me altogether unaccountable; for after I had studied his character, I could not discover one quality likely to recommend him. He was proud, avaricious, ignorant, and yet affected to be witty. He took care grossly to evince
his

his authority over the rest of the servants, but yet would frequently condescend to entertain them with a detail of his own exploits, principally on the subjects of drinking and hunting, at which he always laughed heartily.

After some time, I with difficulty discovered the secret : Sir William respected this man, because he believed him a blunt honest fellow, who had not sufficient ability to be capable of disguise ; for he entertained a notion, that good abilities were very dangerous in servants, not only because they would be apt to make shrewd remarks on the conduct of their masters, but that they were not very likely to be so strictly honest from principle, as those of inferior talents.

This convinced me that I should have been for some time on the reserve, before I ventured to assume any character ;

racter; for now, I perceived, that the means I had taken, through the medium of the butler, to be noticed by Sir William, had made, in his mind, an impression greatly to my disadvantage, and it was, in a great measure, for this reason he kept me so strictly at a distance.

We staid in Devonshire about six weeks, and then moved to their town house in London. Here I found Sir William allowed his honest butler double wages, that he might superintend with a scrutinizing eye, the œconomy of his household, to prevent dishonesty in the other servants, and the imposition of tradesmen; for though Sir William was no miser, he could not bear the idea of being imposed on.

This trusty domestic doubtless guarded Sir William's property from the depredation of the rest of the servants, but

but seemed to be bound by no such condition himself; for the butcher, the baker, the coal merchant, the wine merchant, and all the other tradesmen, made him a regular allowance, according to the quantity of articles consumed, and he who refused to pay the accustomed tribute, was sure to be discharged.

Her ladyship, never well approving of any thing which pleased Sir William, had no great regard for this honest servant, and conceiving some of the articles bought in Covent Garden, charged too high, ordered her carriage to take her to some of the adjacent streets, determining to visit the market herself. The artless butler was no sooner acquainted with her intention, than he posted away to prepare some of the tradesmen of that place to receive her ladyship, desiring they would not forget to give her a specimen of the treatment
she

she must expect, if she descended to such menial business.

I accompanied her ladyship thither, and, at her request, kept at some distance while she applied to the stall of an honest Hibernian; she looked at some fruit, for which having bid him about half the money he demanded, he began to apostrophize her ladyship's person in terms so destitute of respect, and was so well coadjuted by a few females who stood near him, that she hastily retreated, and never interfered in that business after.

This was a sufficient proof, of the importance of a first impression, for the butler being conceived a simple honest man was able to rob his master, without ever being suspected; but Sir William having, at first, considered me as a keen shrewd fellow, all my subsequent conduct could never procure me his confidence.

About

About the middle of the summer, we went again-into Devonshire, and here I found my situation extremely pleasant; for Sir William kept himself so recluse, that I had little else to do but to give directions to the labourers, and to amuse myself with shooting and coursing in a most delightful and extensive park.

One morning early, Sir William gave orders for his carriage to be got ready, to take him to Exeter; I, of course, attended him, and, on our arrival, learnt, that his business was to attend a meeting of the magistrates of the county.

As I stood in the inn yard, in the afternoon, I saw some of the gentlemen lift up the sash, and look at me attentively, as if I was the object of their consideration. Sir William was amongst them, and I saw him point at me with his finger, while he appeared to talk with much

much anger. About a quarter of an hour after, as I stood at the inn door, racking my brain to discover, if possible, what could make me the subject of their conversation, two men came up to me; the one asked if I was not footman to Sir William M——, having answered in the affirmative, “I think, (continued he,) “you once lived in London, and was “known by the name of Rich.” On my hesitating a little, “come come, (said he,) “you are the man we want,” and instantly secured me with a pair of hand-cuffs.

In about half an hour, I was ordered in before the magistrates, and soon began to unriddle the mystery; for I saw Mr. Philpo’s coachmaker, to whom I was well known. He now detailed, before the magistrates, the particulars which I have before related, adding, that he believed I had committed other depredations,

tions, with which he was not acquainted; that Mr. Philpo, the young gentleman I had robbed, was lately liberated from prison, and was driven to the necessity of becoming an usher at a grammar school. He concluded by saying, he had been at Totness, and was on his way back to town; that he had called to take a place in the coach, and had accidentally seen me standing in the yard; that for the sake of public justice, and to punish a miscreant capable of defrauding so generous a master, he had been induced to apply to them in their magisterial capacity.

On being asked what I had to say, I admitted the charge; but informed them of the sum due to me, and the improbability of my being able to recover it by any other means, offering to refund the overplus.

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This, however, availed me nothing; Sir William took a very active part against me; I was stripped of his livery, and sent to prison; the coach-maker promising, instantly on his arrival in town, to make a report to young Philpo, and to acquaint Sir William, by letter, what steps he might be inclined to take.

Immured in this miserable abode, I was left to my own meditations, and had leisure to examine the nature of my crime. Having nicely considered the circumstances, I could not help thinking, that though young Philpo's conduct was, perhaps, not punishable by the law, yet that it was essentially the most infamous. I had lent him the money through motives of compassion, and his refusing to return me any part of it, when my wants were so pressing, was an act of ingratitude, which stimulated me to take an advantage I had never meditated.

Thus

Thus I discovered that it was not the thing itself, but the predicament of the agent, and the manner of doing it, which constituted the crime in the eye of the law; and that a man might do many things, at which human nature would shudder, and yet steer clear of it's trammels.

Amongst the miserable beings confined in this temple of adversity, was a woman, whose appearance excited the utmost astonishment: — In stature she was tall and masculine; though bent by time: her eye-brows were very large and black, interspersed with a number of white hairs, grown to an unusual length; and such large bulbous membranes occupied the cavities beneath her lower eyelids, that her two weak, little, withered, grey eyes, sunk back a considerable way into their sockets, were scarcely perceivable; she had two large black teeth
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only,

only, remaining in the front of her lower jaw, which took an outward direction, and appeared to have lost their enamel and colour, by being continually exposed to the air; for the under jaw so far surpassed the upper one, that the upper lip could lend them no assistant covering. The center of her under lip had an elevation of near three quarters of an inch above the corners of her mouth, but still had never been able to reach the top of the two projecting ill-shaped grinders. Her nose was thin, long, and aquiline, terminating in a small point, which nearly came in contact with the two sable inhabitants of her under jaw. Age, poverty, and vexation, were legible on her lank visage, deeply impressed in characters of nature; her cloathing was of coarse woollen cloth; and on her legs, to keep them warm, she wore a pair of old boots. By a leathern string, attached to the front of her cap, were supported a pair

pair of spectacles, which either rested on her nose to assist her vision, or were slipped up underneath her cap.

As soon as time had so diminished the poignancy of my own trouble, that I could attend to any thing else, I was told, by one of the prisoners, that the name of this old woman was Mary Blackston, and that she was a reputed witch. I observed, that submitting to her present confinement was, in my opinion, a sufficient proof to the contrary.

After an attempt to prove I might be mistaken, by pointing out several modes to deprive a witch of the power of having recourse to her art, he told me, she was a native of a little place in Somersetshire, about thirty miles distant, where he himself was born; that she had lived many years in a small habitation,

tation, in the environs of the town, on an allowance of nine-pence a week by the parish, and what she could get by spinning yarn for the manufacturers of coarse woollen cloth; that she was frequently teased by mischievous boys in the neighbourhood, who often cut off the string by which she lifted up the latch of her door, put rockets through holes in her window, and the like; that in summer evenings she would sit at a window over her door, almost obscured by the thatch, and from thence throw water, or the contents of an urinary utensil on the heads of her tormentors.

About two months ago, (continued he) she took it into her head, that her brother, who had lived many years in Exeter, had died, leaving her some property, and accordingly made a journey hither on foot, when she learnt that her brother had died very poor.

Having

Having now no means of procuring subsistence, to support her on her way home, she had been obliged to solicit alms, in which being detected, she was taken into custody, and ordered to be passed to her own parish.

On contemplating the case of this forlorn object, I could not help forgetting my own misfortune for a moment, whilst I viewed her as she sat opposite me on a form, mumbling a dry crust; and after many ideas had presented themselves, in various shapes, to my mind, I heaved a sigh at the miseries entailed on human nature. How lamentable, said I, within myself, that mortal wisdom cannot devise a law which might discriminate between the case of this poor old woman and a daring mendicant, who terrifies the public into a contribution, or wounds the feelings of the delicate

delicate to obtain it by exposing disease or deformity.

I now extended towards this poor creature some little offices of kindness, the sincerity of which she at first seemed to suspect; but when she was convinced that I really compassionated her, never did I before see such lively signs of gratitude. It seemed, indeed, as if she had been so unaccustomed to receive pity from her fellow creatures, that she scarcely gave credit to its existence.

A few days after, when she was about to be taken to her parish, I slipped a shilling into her hand: She instantly fell on her knees, prayed God to bless me, but absolutely refused to accept it, saying, that I, in my situation, might want it, but that she could do very well without it.

A few

A few reflections on this circumstance furnished me with another striking instance of human weakness; for as flattery and oratory dazzle our senses, and obscure truth, so a beautiful form beguiles us, and we pay respect where there is no essential merit, and too often disregard the most admirable qualities, when they are not accompanied by either of these fascinating charms.

I lay in prison about three weeks, and then was brought again before the magistrates. Sir William presided, and told me he had orders from the gentleman I had defrauded, to discharge me, on condition that I would enlist for a soldier; that about twenty guineas, due to me for wages, &c. he proposed to remit to the gentleman, as a part of the money of which I had robbed him; that his servant had brought with him the few articles belonging to me, and that a

recruiting serjeant was at hand to engage me, if I chose to agree to the proposition, if not, he should remand me, and other measures would be taken.

Finding myself in the hands of power, I was willing to obtain my liberty on any condition. The serjeant was instantly called in, and in less than half an hour, I was examined, attested, and following the party in the street with a bunch of ribbons in my hat.

In a few days, I began to consider my present a more degrading condition than any I had yet experienced. No object presented itself worthy of emulation. Commanded and insulted by a serjeant, who possessed little else but human shape, and the vices of excess, to distinguish him from a brute, and obliged to associate with those who seemed to aspire at nothing beyond the means

means of intoxication, I was almost weary of my existence.

After a little time, I was decidedly of opinion, that strong reasoning faculties were not only unnecessary to one in my situation, but that a private soldier would be happier in himself, and more valuable to his owner without them. If, therefore, men could be as readily deprived of the powers of reflection, as the slaves in the Turkish seraglio are of the organs of generation, I have no doubt, but it would be found expedient to oblige every private soldier, on being attested, to submit to the operation.

About six weeks after I had enlisted, we were marched into Somersetshire, and I was now so heartily tired of my situation, that I would have submitted to anything to have been disengaged; but it was in time of war, and the means of procuring my liberty were totally out of my reach; for all I was master of in

the world did not amount to more than ten shillings.

I several times entertained an idea of deserting, but feared I should fall again into the hands of coercion, and was fully determined, if possible, hereafter to steer clear of the unrelenting grasp of the law.

The time now approached when we were to march for Chatham; and, after several weeks deliberation, I finally resolved, at all hazards, to take my leave of them, before the appointed day. Without much money, or clothes to disguise myself, this, I was well aware, I should find a difficult task.

At last recollecting that I could not be far from the habitation of poor old Mary Blackston, whom I had seen in Exeter gaol, I fortunately remembered the name of the place, and, on private enquiry,

enquiry, found it was about eight miles from the town where we then lay.

Having thrown aside every thing which had the least of military appearance, on the evening of the day preceding that on which we were to march for Chatham, I set off for the place where the poor old woman resided, and though the way I took was almost trackless, I fortunately reached the place about twelve at night.

On entering the village, it appeared that all the inhabitants had retired to rest, except at one house, where I saw a light in the chamber window; I approached it, and gently tapped with my stick, when a woman opened the casement, and demanded my business. I requested she would be so kind as to direct me to the habitation of Mary Blackston. With much apparent astonishment, she gave me a direction, and in

in about a quarter of an hour, I reached the poor old woman's abode.

I knocked at the door, when she believing it was some of the mischievous school boys, who frequently plagued her at a very late hour, came to the window, and was about to pour on me the contents of an earthen vessel which she held in her hand. Hearing, however, a strange voice, and perceiving, by the moon-light, that I kept my position, she luckily desisted. I then asked her, if she remembered the young man whom she had seen in Exeter gaol. The very instant I spoke, she knew my voice, came own stairs, opened the door, and seized my hand, expressing the most cordial friendship.

Having briefly told her my case, I requested that, if it were in her power, she would conceal me for a short time,
'till

'till I could procure a proper disguise to quit that part of the country: "Ay, (said this poor, old, friendless creature) "for seven years, to render you any "service." She then, on my refusing to take some milk, the only refreshment her mansion afforded, contrived me a comfortable birth, with some wool with which she had been entrusted by a clothier to be spun into yarn, and I betook myself to rest.

The next morning, the poor old woman got me a breakfast, in the best manner she was able. I then gave her five shillings, and requested she would get me with that sum, if possible, an old hat, a wig, and any sort of a surtout. Having first rendered me every comfort in her power, she readily went forth in search of these articles, and, with great precaution, locked me up in her hovel, taking the key with her. In about two hours, she returned, with a wig and
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an old great coat, saying she had a hat of her own that would answer my purpose, to which I was very welcome, and returned me two shillings, as the wig she said, was given her, and she had paid for the great coat no more than three shillings.

I now, having consulted my benefactress on the most eligible road to be taken, prepared to set off for Bristol in the dusk of the evening, the distance being about forty eight miles. But how uncertain are all human purposes!

In the course of the morning, several people had attempted to open the door of the old lady's habitation, and now two or three were endeavouring to peep through the window. At this she was greatly exasperated, and having well secured the door, ran up stairs, taking with her a pan of water, when having fixed herself

herself at the window, she threatened to pour an offensive fluid on the heads of those who should dare to approach.

Here she brandished her utensil, and kept a parcel of boys and idle wenches at bay for a considerable time. The crowd, however, increased, and as I heard the boys say, "Some of them are there" "now, we will have them out," I began to be seriously alarmed.

It appeared, that some foolish old women and children had entertained a notion, that many in the profession of witchcraft had been accustomed to transport themselves, by virtue of their power, to the house of this poor old woman ; and some of the most credulous believed, that they were able to magnify this little hovel into a magnificent palace, where they splendidly regaled themselves in the night-time.

I under-

I understood also, that the woman, of whom I had made some enquiry the preceding night, being one of those who delighted in the wonderful, had, early in the morning, industriously reported, that some person or persons, richly attired, had called on her at the chamber window, at twelve o'clock at night, to enquire for Mother Blackston.

This story, having circulated for an hour or two, had altered it's complexion very considerably ; for it was now currently said, on the faith of this woman, that five or six carriages, with elegant equipages, had taken some people, splendidly dressed, to the house of Mary Blackston ; and many, who were far from giving credit to such silly reports, were led, by curiosity, to increase the multitude.

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The poor old woman, unusually anxious on my account, had nearly exhausted herself, in uttering bitter maledictions against the mob, and they were on the point of forcing open the door, when one of the overseers of the poor, possessing a little humanity, came to her assistance, and endeavoured to disperse the crowd.

He reasoned with them for a considerable time, but they still affirmed that somebody was then in the house. At last he requested that the old lady would permit him to enter alone, that they might be convinced of their mistake, by his evidence. This she peremptorily refused, the mob shouted, became tumultuous, and were encouraged to persist in being satisfied.

The overseer himself began to think there must be some mystery in the business,

ness, and manifested no small degree of curiosity. This stimulated the populace, who, in spite of several pans of water, which my feeble defender poured upon them, presently forced open the door, and on beholding me, exclaimed, "We have caught them at last; here is one of them."

In a few seconds the house was filled, and the mob crowded round the window, to see through the glass what was going forward within. Hearing this, the overseer, with difficulty, entered, and having viewed me for some moments, asked me who I was, and where I came from. I told him my name was Torquid, that I came from Exeter, where I had seen Mrs. Blackston, when she came to enquire after her brother; that being benighted in this part of the country, I had called on her; that she had been so kind as to afford me an accommodation for

for the night, and that I intended to set out for Bristol that evening.

In a short time, the exaggerated reports which were in circulation, brought several genteel people to the spot; amongst the number was a gentleman, who seemed to possess a considerable share of influence. He viewed me with much attention, and then very sagaciously hinted to the others, that he believed he could explain the mystery: "There has lately (said he) been a man, exactly answering his description, who has obtained considerable sums of money in this neighbourhood, under pretence that he was one of the sufferers by the late fire at Crediton, and I am of opinion he should be taken into custody, and examined before a magistrate."

The

The depth of this gentleman's penetration was greatly applauded, and I was instantly put into the custody of a constable, who ordered several able men to assist him, and, there being no prison within ten miles of the place, took me, surrounded by more than two hundred people, to a public house, where a proper guard was placed over me.

An amazing concourse of people, who had heard the wonderful reports in circulation, crowded in the course of the afternoon to see me, and the room was successively cleared, to admit a fresh company.

The curiosity of the rabble, who firmly believed this to be an instance of detected witchcraft, was so great, that some scores paid a halfpenny a-piece to view me, for about ten minutes, from the top of a cart, which was drawn up close to the window

window of the apartment in which I was confined, for the purpose of emolument.

The landlord could scarcely draw his ale fast enough; for each company, on entering, was expected to call for a gallon, of which I was generally invited to partake.

There being no magistrate within some miles of the place, I could not undergo an examination 'till the following morning; and, in order to prevent an attempt to escape, two men slept in the same room with me.

Soon after we had retired, however, I found my companions had taken so large a portion of the ale which had circulated, that, should I be inclined to refuse obedience to the law, I had little to fear from any resistance on their part.

Having

Having, therefore, by the moon-light, taken a view from the window, I found that a descent was by no means impracticable, and being nowise inclined to answer interrogatories in the morning, I took two sheets from the bed, tyed them together, and having fastened one end round an upright iron bar, in the center of the window, readily got into the street without the least opposition.

It was now about three o'clock in the morning, and I knew not what direction to take; determined, however, to get as far distant as possible, before my escape should be discovered, I walked briskly for about three hours, pursuing a very obscure narrow road, and, at last, came into a large public highway.

Being now very faint, for want of refreshment, and finding I must soon stop at some house of accommodation, I began

I began to consider what idea my appearance was likely to produce, and the state of my finances.

I had on the great coat and hat which the old lady had procured me, the wig being left behind, and about four shillings and six-pence in my pocket. My dress certainly exhibited strong marks of poverty, an appearance by no means calculated to operate in my favour; but there was nothing else about me likely to excite suspicion.

In about an hour and a half I reached a small village, situated between the towns of Taunton and Bridgwater. Having entered a public house, while I took some humble refreshment, and drank a pint of cyder, I seriously reflected on my present situation.

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Amongst the many objects which presented themselves to my mind, the most embarrassing was, how, in this mean apparel, without any recommendation, I should obtain an introduction into society; or, in other words, find employment, by which I might procure subsistence. I very well knew, that, after a footing was once obtained, it was not very difficult to get forward.

I now felt severely the consequence of infracting the laws of society, and was resolved never again to suffer from a similar cause; not that I was conscious of having committed any essential crime, in taking the forty guineas and a few articles of apparel from young Philpo; on the contrary, I considered the circumstance itself as an act of justice, for which I applauded myself; but my error consisted in not having chosen such means of punishing his ingratitude, as could not

not possibly have been attended with any danger to myself.

After, however, examining the matter carefully, I saw clearly that my misfortune originated in suffering the caution, with which I had at first shielded myself, to be charmed into relaxation; after which, I fell into an error so very common, that similar instances are continually presenting themselves. Nay, there is hardly a man living, if he fairly appeal to himself, but will find that he is a little tintured with it, and that is, as I have before hinted, the suffering one or two qualities with which we are well pleased, to charm us into universal approbation; or, the permitting a few circumstances, which do not accord with our feelings, to lead us into a total disgust of the person.

But to return to my narrative—Finding it impossible to conjecture how I should dispose of myself, I conceived it best to make my way, as soon as possible to some large town, where, confounded with the multitude, I should be less subject to scrutiny; and accordingly having paid for my repast, I set out on the road for Bristol.

I pursued my journey till the approach of night, when, being much fatigued, I entered a very genteel inn, on the road side, and enquired if I could be accommodated for the night. The master of the house seeming not to approve of my appearance, answered in the negative, but told me there was a little house, about two miles further on, where I might get a bed.

I was just about to depart, when catching a glance of his countenance, I
thought

thought I knew something of his features, and presently recollected that his name was Dent, one of the company of comedians whom I had followed from Westmoreland. As soon as I had made myself known to him, he received me with great friendship, and told me I should not be at a loss for a bed.

After I had entertained him with a partial history of my adventures, for I omitted that which might operate to my disadvantage, he took no small pains to represent to me the advantages of his present situation, and concluded by saying he would render me every assistance in his power. He now introduced me to his wife, as an old acquaintance, humourously telling her, that I was once a smart young fellow, but had been reduced to this plight by the power of witchcraft.

The following morning, he furnished me with a very decent suit of clothes, saying I should be welcome to stay at his house for a week or a fortnight, if I pleased, and when I should be inclined to go to Bristol, he would procure me a lift in a returned post chaise.

In the course of the morning arrived a small carriage, in which was a fine portly gentleman, dressed in a velvet suit of clothes, trimmed with broad gold lace, accompanied by a thin, genteel man. It was soon rumoured in the house, that this was the celebrated German Doctor Folsh, and his tumbler, returning from a short excursion. All the people in the house spoke highly of the Doctor's great skill, in curing every complaint, without the assistance of the knife; but particularly the wonderful cures he had performed at Salisbury. It was said, that he was a man of fortune, but

but travelled now for the good of mankind, and to preserve those poor creatures, who were in danger of having their limbs chopped off by the unskilful practice of modern surgeons.

Dent, to whom I had hinted, that I should be glad to accept of any engagement, happening to speak of me to this gentleman, the Doctor desired to see me, saying, that should I appear calculated for his service, he would engage me himself. I appeared before him, when Dent recommended me so strongly, that the Doctor gave me orders to accompany him the following morning to Salisbury.

Thus, having once more escaped from abject poverty, one of the most dreadful calamities incident to human nature, I was determined to act with strict circumspection in future.

On our arrival at Salisbury, I found that the Doctor had been but a short time absent from that city, for he had a stage erected there, and a crowd of patients anxiously attended his return.

Besides Meek the tumbler, and myself, the Doctor had another attendant who met us there, and acted in the capacity of a merry-andrew. The Doctor's advertisement had preceded his arrival, and a great concourse of people were collected to be present at his exhibition.

Previous to appearing in public, he called me into his apartment, and said, "young man, should you prove steady, you will find my service advantageous; your business will principally be to make up and distribute my medicines." He then opened a large trunk, and taking out a quart bottle nearly full of a transparent liquid, and about a dozen small phials,

phials, desired me to put about a table-spoonful of the liquid into each phial, and then to fill them up with water.

As soon as I had finished, he sent me with a small trunk, containing the mixture I had prepared, some lint, plaster, and a few other articles, to the stage in the market place. On my arrival, I saw Meek the tumbler on the stage, and Mr. Merryman whirling his cap, to the great entertainment of several hundred spectators.

At the end of the stage was a form, over which was a tilted roof. This seat was intended for the poor, whose cases the Doctor undertook gratis, from whence their wounds were exhibited, to shew the progress of the cure. Before the Doctor arrived, not less than ten or twelve patients attended; four of whom had been with him before, and were in a recovering state. There

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were

were besides, a poor old man and a woman, who, encouraged by the language of his advertisement, had come many miles on foot, to crave the charitable aid of his salutary skill. The rest were people in sufficient circumstances to pay him for his advice, for though the poor were objects of his charity, those who were able, he had signified, must pay to defray his travelling expenses.

The Doctor presently made his appearance, and ascended the stage, dressed in a crimson suit of velvet, ornamented with broad gold lace, and had a long sword by his side. He made his obedi-
ence to the populace, lamented that he had been obliged to be so long absent from the poor objects he had undertaken to cure, but, as he had dedicated the remainder of his days to the relief of the afflicted, he wished, in the short period which might yet remain of his life, to render his bounty as extensive as possible.

ble. This short address was received with universal applause, and many prayed God to lengthen his days.

The poor patients now began to unbind their wounds, but those who were able to pay, I perceived, were entitled to a precedence, and admitted behind a sort of curtain. The first who claimed the Doctor's attention was a woman, apparently about forty-five years of age; she was very corpulent, her eyes blood shot, and her whole face much inflamed. The Doctor demanded half a guinea as a preliminary, which having pocketed, he, with much tenderness, enquired into the nature of her disease. She complained of sore eyes, an inflamed face, and a loss of appetite; nor was this to be wondered at, for it appeared, she was mistress of a public house, made very free with the dram bottle, was continually pampering her appetite with

some nice delicacy, and used no exercise.

The Doctor having desired me to reach him one of the phials I had prepared, strongly recommended her to rise early every morning, to take in a cup of tea, a table spoonful of the essence contained in the phial, to add about the same quantity to a quart of spring water, and therewith to wash her face and eyes several times a day. He also advised her to abstain, every day, from taking any thing but her tea and the medicine, as long as she was able; and when she did sit down to table, to be as sparing as possible, assuring her, that if she persevered but for a short time, her appetite would be sure to return. Several others were introduced labouring under various complaints, but the Doctor prescribed the same medicine for them all.

Having

Having finished his other business, he now began to attend to his cases of charity, and the poor objects who had come so many miles were first noticed. The woman was dreadfully afflicted with a scrophulous complaint, and the man had a cancer in his lip. The doctor, I perceived, was instantly convinced that these disorders were too stubborn for his nostrum; and considering, perhaps, what was still more important to him, that no emolument could arise from his endeavours, after giving to each a phial of his specific, and collecting a few pence from the populace, to support them on their return, prudently dismissed them, observing that their cases would take a long time in curing, and that his stay would be too short to render them any essential service.

He now began to dress the wounds of the paupers he had undertaken to cure gratis.

gratis, making them name every Doctor to whom they had applied, who, of course, were said to have given them over as incurables. One of them said he had been turned out of an hospital, for the same reason, when the Doctor expatiated, in broken English, on the inhuman and unskilful practice of those places, where, for the sake of experiment only, they chopped off many limbs, which, by proper management, might be preserved. "Dat is de reason (said the Doctor) dat you see so many wooden legs in dis country; " de English surgeon is no better as a " butcher."

Having finished his business, the Doctor now quitted the stage, leaving Meek, Mr. Merryman, and me, to sell small assortments of medicines, calculated to cure all disorders, at the small price of one shilling a packet.

In

In the course of a few days I clearly perceived, that this great man owed the eminence of his reputation more to his laced coat, bag wig, and a few common stage tricks, of which he had made himself master, than to any physical knowledge he possessed. A crowd of poor people waited on him daily, to whom he promised, in his hand-bills, to give advice gratis; but I found he undertook to cure nothing but external wounds, which had a frightful appearance, where nature seemed to be labouring against filth and neglect only; by the exhibition of which, on the stage, during the progress of the cure, he might establish a reputation.

In reflecting on his practice, an idea presented itself to me, which was very embarrassing: I could not conceive how the antics of a posture-master, or the grimaces of a merry-andrew, came first to be associated with the profession of
physic.

physic. It could not, I thought, be the result of accident, nor did there seem anything natural in the alliance; and yet the custom, I understood, had the sanction of antiquity. Sometimes I was inclined to think, that the merry-andrew might have been first introduced as a foil to the Doctor, and that profound wisdom might have appeared more respectable, by being contrasted with buffoonery, as beauty is said to be more charming when compared with deformity. But then I was at a loss to account for the introduction of the posture master, and was, therefore, finally dissatisfied with this conjecture.

Some days after, as I stood on the stage, viewing some hundred countenances, all directed towards Mr. Merryman, and grinning at his home-spun wit, I began to think, that the association of buffoonery with physic, originated in a
 very

very subtle thought, and was adopted for a more crafty purpose than I had before imagined. Indeed I was presently well satisfied it was a species of the same art, which, in different shapes, might be discovered in a variety of the manœuvres of mankind.

He, I perceived, was best able to enrich himself at the expence of individuals, who could present something so generally striking, as should attract the attention of the multitude, without regarding whether it were analagous to the object in view or not. And as mankind, in the gross, are by no means acquainted with what is called refinement, vulgar means, within the sphere of their comprehension, were artfully had recourse to.

Mr. Merryman, with his gross and obscene wit, was able to entertain several hundred spectators for an hour or two, on a subject quite foreign to physic, for
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the purpose of selling medicine; whereas, had an able professor delivered a lecture on a physical subject, of the same length, nine tenths of his company would, perhaps, have left him, and he would not, probably, have taken one tenth of the money.

Having brought together, and interested a numerous assemblage, no matter by what means, the Doctor now comes forward, and presents to the multitude a number of objects, whom he pretends his skill, by the blessing of God, has snatched from the jaws of death. Thus does he spread his fame afar, by means of many spectators, who are also of a description not likely to permit a detail of the wonders they may have witnessed, to suffer by diminution.

This son of *Æsculapius*, though apparently sixty years of age, was not entirely

entirely insensible to the pleasures of the flesh. He had with him a young girl, whom he called his wife, but I was soon informed this was no more than a temporary engagement. This lady generally paid me my stipend; and I soon perceived she did not look on me with perfect indifference. In a short time I had a sufficient proof of this, by many instances of her kindness, for she gave me several guineas more than the wages I had agreed for. This enabled me to dress very genteelly, and to indulge myself in many other comforts.

She was very genteel, and possessed many personal attractions, to which I was by no means insensible, but I greatly feared any familiarity would expose us to difficulty. Our correspondence, indeed, was perfectly innocent, but it was entirely for want of opportunity.

About

About seven weeks after I had entered his service, the Doctor resolved to go to Marlborough; and I was sent forward with Meek and Mr. Merryman, to procure lodgings, get a stage erected, &c. while the Doctor and his damsel visited Bath.

Having got every thing ready at Marlborough, Meek acquainted the Doctor, by letter, who, in a few days, followed us, leaving his mistress to stay a short time longer, at a friend's house at Bath.

After the Doctor had been with us about a week, having appeared in public three times, with great success, and his fame beginning to spread about the country rapidly, he one afternoon set off for Bath, to fetch his mistress. In about half an hour after his departure, she came to Marlborough, having missed him on the road.

On

On her arrival, she saw me standing in the street, and beckoned me. I ran, handed her out of the chaise, and conducted her to her lodgings. We both considered this as a most lucky circumstance, for though we had for some time perfectly understood each other, we had never yet enjoyed the pleasure of ten minutes private conversation.

The lodgings which the Doctor occupied were at a private house, in which, with some little forethought, I had found means to procure accommodations for myself. As we now sat in a neat little parlour, taking tea together, we entered into an ample explanation of our respective sentiments. So far indeed was she from being on the reserve, that, with the most charming frankness, and without solicitation, she told me she was the daughter of a sugar-baker in London; that about three years ago, she had eloped
with

with a young fellow whom she loved, taking with her about a hundred pounds of her father's money. That she went with her lover to Bath, where they lived together till all the money was spent, when the youth left her, and went for a soldier. That Doctor Folsh had then apartments in the same house where she lodged, and seeing her destitute, and so much distressed, had kindly offered to support her for a short time, out of pure motives of compassion. Nor did she believe, at that time, he entertained any other design, for he was old enough to be her grandfather. After, however, she had been with him about a month, and he had taken her into Hampshire, he began, with much delicacy, to manifest other inclinations. Having loaded her with presents, and gratified her with every indulgence she could wish, without sparing any expence, motives of gratitude

tude and convenience induced her at last to comply with his wishes.

She also said, that she had been with him for more than two years and a half, during that time, he had always treated her with much tenderness, had entrusted her with what running cash he possessed, permitted her to make any purchases of dress or ornament she pleased, and had never called her to an account; therefore, she said, she respected him with the same gratitude as she bore towards a parent, and should be extremely sorry to be the cause of giving him any uneasiness. "But I fear," (continued she, with a downcast look,) "he already begins to suspect that I favour somebody else."

The native frankness with which she delivered the above narrative, and the manner of avowing her sentiments towards

wards me, finished the work, her charms and generosity had nearly before effected. Having exchanged mutual assurances of affection, and sealed it on each others lips, we finally resolved not to let so favourable an opportunity escape. She manifested much anxiety to the gentlewoman of the house, at having missed her husband in her way to Marlborough; and it being a fine evening, we took a walk on the Bath road, to see if we could meet him on his return.

This promenade I always consider as the most pleasant I ever enjoyed. Health, youth, beauty, expectation, the charms of a fine summer's evening, and the interest I felt in the subject of conversation, all conspired to enliven the picture; and I frequently take a retrospective view of this little circumstance, as the most perfect piece of felicity my life ever afforded.

We

We enjoyed a walk of more than two hours, viewing a most delightful, romantic country; and, after having agreed upon proper nocturnal signals, by which I should find access to her apartment, we returned to our lodgings.

In a short time after we got home, the lady, finding herself fatigued with her journey, retired to her apartment; and I, the better to carry into effect the plan agreed upon, went out, taking with me the key of the street door, with an intent not to return till the family had retired.

At the hour they usually betook themselves to rest, I came back, but found a light in the window; a full hour elapsed, and it was still the same. I began now to be very uneasy, and it being near twelve o'clock, was resolved to enter, when I was pleased to find it was the servant girl, officiously sitting up to in-
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form me, that three men had been twice to-enquire for me after I went out. I could not conceive who this could be, but the business I had in prospect would not permit any thing else to occupy my attention for a moment.

I now betook myself to my apartment, which was directly over that occupied by the lady. I undressed, went to bed, and lay till I thought all the family were asleep; and now, leaving my clothes in my own apartment, I went softly about half way down stairs, when my weight on one of the steps made it creak so tremendously, that I feared the whole house would be alarmed. Arriving, however, at last, at the place of destination, I was finally rewarded with the soft caresses of beauty.

In about three hours after, however, I was obliged to retire precipitately to
my

my own apartment, while the servant went down to admit the Doctor, who was returned in a post-chaise from Bath.

About nine in the morning, the servant came to my room door, and informed me, that the gentlemen who had been enquiring for me the preceding night were waiting below. I hastily dressed, went down stairs, and coming to the door, discovered to my sorrow, that these gentlemen were no other than the corporal and two privates of the party from whom I had deserted in Somersetshire. I was immediately secured, but at my earnest request, they waited till the Doctor, who was instantly called by the servant, came down stairs. On being informed of the particulars, he said with indifference, he was sorry I had brought myself into so disagreeable a predicament, but he could afford me no relief, so saying, he paid me my wages, amounting to twelve shillings, and retired,

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apparently

apparently well satisfied that I was thus removed.

I was now taken before a magistrate, sworn to as a deserter, and instantly marched away handcuffed. On the road, I learnt that my person had been recognized at Salisbury, from whence notice had been sent to the regiment at Chatham, and that the party had been sent on purpose to fetch me. After a very fatiguing march of about a week, during which time I was obliged to lie every night chained to one of my comrades, I was lodged a prisoner in Chatham Barracks.

After being several weeks in confinement, I was tried by a court-martial, and sentenced to receive three hundred lashes. The day of punishment arrived, I was brought out, tied up to the halberds, and received ten severe strokes,
when

when the commanding officer, on my promising to behave well, and it being my first offence, thought proper to pardon me.

Eighteen months I supported the rigour of my condition, without a gleam of hope, when a peace procured me my liberty.

Many pleasing ideas now presented themselves to my mind, amongst which, one of the most agreeable was, that I could appear in any part of the kingdom without fear or apprehension, for I had never, 'till that moment, expiated, in the eye of the law, what was called a robbery of Mr. Philpo.

Having now no more than three shillings and six-pence in money, nor any other clothes but my regimentals, I perceived I should labour under much difficulty,

ficulty, as I had learnt, with many other useful lessons, in the school of adversity, that a genteel appearance was a better recommendation than intrinsic merit; but this was not within the reach of my ways and means. I, however, set out on the road to London, and as I was walking over Rochester Bridge, a genteel man came and accosted me, whom I soon recollected to be Meek the tumbler. He very cordially shook me by the hand, and told me he left the Doctor about a fortnight after I was taken from Marlborough, and had ever since been in gentlemen's service. I told him, with some concern, I should be happy to get an engagement of any sort. "Never be disheartened (said he) I think I can get you a footman's place immediately, upon my own recommendation, if you like that."

This

This proposal I readily accepted, and Meek used his influence so effectually, that on the following morning I was introduced to the gentleman, and instantly engaged. I was now accommodated with the livery of his late servant, and that very same day set off, with my master, for London.

This gentleman was very young, and on our arrival in town, I found his father was a celebrated physician, and in great practice. Here I soon found means to obtain the particular favour of the old gentleman, who, in a short time, provided his son another servant, and engaged me himself.

I lived with this gentleman for more than three years, attentively noticing his conduct, and carefully imbibing all the important externals of that sage profession, with which this great character abounded in a most eminent degree.

During

During this time, I obtained some knowledge of the affairs of life, and carefully examined the difference between the various orders of men. The lowest rank, it appeared, possessed the most sincerity, and the highest, the greatest share of dissimulation.

The sincerity of the peasant, I perceived, was called vulgarity; and the dissimulation of the great, politeness: their motives seemed to be nearly the same. Thus when the peer says to the baronet, "my dear Sir George, I am extremely happy to see you," this same salute, put into the mouth of an honest tar, would be, "d—n your e—s, Jack, give us yout fist."

I also observed, that what was considered honourable in one rank of men, in another class was esteemed the direct opposite. If two puppies of noble birth, absorbed in debauchery at a brothel,

thel, were to blow out each others brains with a pair of pistols, their juvenile imprudence might be tenderly lamented, but their honor and courage would be treated with respect. But if two Irish hay-makers, indulging in the same laudable amusement, were to decide a similar dispute with their pocket-knives, in a cellar in St. Giles's, they would be termed two vile, blood-thirsty murderers.

I perceived that riches were sure to command universal respect, and that poverty was every where abominated;—that the actions of the great were viewed through an improving medium, and that every tolerable thing which escaped their lips, was magnified into a sublime spark of sterling wit: that poverty frequently obscured the most splendid abilities; that if the great were haughty and disrespectful, it was attributed to the noble blood which enriched their veins; but

but that these characters, in the lower order, were considered as signs of a vile and perverse nature. That the debaucheries and excesses of the rich, were said to be the exuberant effusions of a fertile soil, which time would meliorate into a degree of excellence; but that a symptom of either, amongst the poor, was called an impious disobedience to the laws of God and man, which, if pursued, would lead to the gallows.

Being finally convinced that all the actions of men were influenced by interest, in whatever shape it was disguised, and conceiving I should act conformably to the most enlightened men of the age, if I endeavoured to lay the public under a sufficient contribution to afford me a comfortable maintenance, I began to search for a proper department.

It

It was not long before I formed a connexion with a celebrated empiric, with whom I travelled for some time; but his imprudence, at last, induced me to discard him. After this, I travelled for many years under the name of Torquid, with a confidential servant, and perhaps, in my practice, rendered the public more real service than any physician in the kingdom; for I took care to do no harm, had learnt how to treat some cases, and always recommended temperance and cleanliness.

In my profession, I imposed on myself much taciturnity; and when obliged to speak, delivered myself with caution and brevity; so that by with-holding a part of what I did know, I got credit for that with which I was never acquainted. I had always sufficient address to conceal my ignorance of literature, and was generally esteemed a man of learning; but

but this cost me much trouble. A slight acquaintance with letters would have been of infinite service to me; for I am well persuaded, there are many with a very superficial education, joined to a little address, who find means to obtain a reputation for profound erudition.

Without violating the laws of society, I have always found ample resources in the vices and follies of mankind; and, for thirty years, wondered, in a most extraordinary manner, over the whimsical checker of vicissitude. About seven years ago, however, my personal liberty, and the little property I possessed, being endangered, by a decision in the Court of Exchequer, I thought proper to retire to this land of hospitality, of which I have never yet had occasion to repent.

